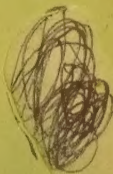
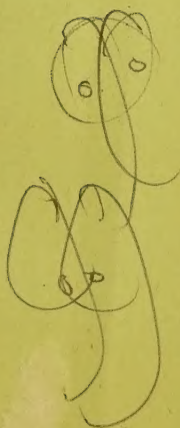
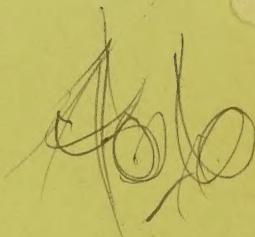
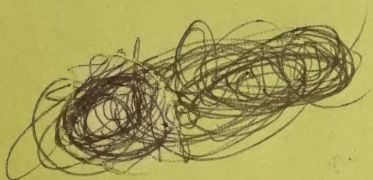




R00040 82402



FIFTY YEARS
OF
CRYPTIC MASONRY
IN ILLINOIS

Comprising a sketch of Cryptic origins and development in America; a history of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters of Illinois, from its organization to the fiftieth annual assembly, in the year 1902; biographical notes and portraits of distinguished craftsmen during that period, and an account of the exercises at the semi-centennial banquet held in connection with

Freemasons - Illinois - Royal and Select
Masters - Grand Council

FIFTIETH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF
GRAND COUNCIL

AT CHICAGO, OCTOBER TWENTY-NINTH
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWO

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE

CHICAGO
PUBLISHED BY THE GRAND COUNCIL
1902

DISCARD

R366.1
F87iLf
cop.1

Pettibone, Sawtell & Co.
Printers and Stationers, Chicago

Q0243

393922

9 1 18

THE
CHICAGO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

300
(A. 0. f.)

PREFACE.

At the annual assembly of the Grand Council of Illinois, R. & S. M., held in 1901, it was decided to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of organization by appropriate exercises and the publication of a souvenir volume. The performance of the latter task has fallen to the lot of the undersigned committee, who now take pleasure in presenting a brief sketch of Cryptic Masonry in Illinois, from the pen of Comp. Geo. W. Warvelle, P. G. M.; a series of brief biographies of the illustrious companions who have been called to preside over Grand Council during the fifty years which have elapsed since organization, and other officers, prepared by Comp. Gil. W. Barnard; and a summary of the exercises attending the semi-centennial celebration. To these have been added the portraits of such companions as we have been able to obtain and such other matters as, in the judgment of the committee, seemed proper for a volume of this kind.

We submit the work in the confidence that it contains much of deep and lasting interest to the companions of Illinois, and that the matters which we have embodied in it are of permanent value.

WM. B. CARLOCK,
JOHN C. SMITH,
GIL. W. BARNARD,
Committee.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Cryptic Masonry in Illinois, Introduction.....	1
Chronological History of Grand Council.....	8
Officers of Grand Council.....	32
Description of Seal of Grand Council.....	33
District Supervision of Grand Council.....	33
Official Jewel of Past Grand Master.....	34
Committees on Foreign Correspondence	35
Cryptic Mass Conventions	36
Cryptic Nomenclature	37
Ritualistic Revisions.....	39
Relation of General Grand Council.....	42
	PAGE.
✓ Avise, W. M.....	67
Portrait.....	56
Barclay, P. W.....	77
Portrait.....	70
✓ Barnard, G. W.....	106
Portrait.....	114
✓ Blackshaw, Edward.....	73
Portrait.....	64
Blaney, J. V. Z.	53
Portrait.....	20
✓ Bowditch, Nathaniel.....	82
Portrait.....	78
Bromfield, W. F	72
Portrait.....	62
Burr, D. G.....	64
Portrait.....	52
Burrill, John F.....	
Portrait.....	71
✓ Carlock, W. B	100
Portrait.....	106
Clarke, E. M. M.....	52
Portrait.....	16
✓ Curtiss, G. W.....	80
Portrait.....	74
Deering, G. W.....	56
Portrait.....	32
DeLancey, W. J. A.....	110
Portrait.....	118
✓ Fisher, Charles.....	57
Portrait.....	36
✓ Fithian, J. B.....	99
Portrait.....	104
✓ Forsyth, W. K.....	86
Portrait.....	82
French, J. J.....	76
Portrait.....	68

TABLE OF CONTENTS—CONTINUED.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Gross, Geo. M.....	94	Portrait.....	96
Hallenbeck, J. C.....	102	Portrait.....	108
Hawley, J. A.....	62	Portrait.....	50
Hibbard, J. H.....	50	Portrait.....	4
Hoberg, F. E.....	98	Portrait.....	102
Hubbard, H. W.....	68	Portrait.....	58
Huston, H. E.....	81	Portrait.....	76
Jerome, L. R.....	74	Portrait.....	66
Jewel, Grand Master.....			1
Jewel, P. G. M.....			2
Ladd, J. A.....	111	Portrait.....	120
LeFevre, S. J.....	89	Portrait.....	86
Levanway, Wm. A.....			69
Lounsbury, G. E.....	70	Portrait.....	60
Lord, M. M.....	93	Portrait.....	94
Lusk, Levi.....	51	Portrait.....	12
Matheny, C. W.....	55	Portrait.....	28
Miles, J. H.....	61	Portrait.....	48
Milligan, W. L.....	96	Portrait.....	100
Miner, O. H.....	59	Portrait.....	40
Moulton, G. M.,	84	Portrait.....	80
O'Neill, John.....	79	Portrait.....	72
Orr, W. L.....	109	Portrait.....	116
Pearson, J. M.....	65	Portrait.....	54
Ramsey, J. L.....	60	Portrait.....	44
Reynolds, H. G.....	104	Portrait.....	112
Smith, John C.....	103	Portrait.....	110
Spring, S. O.....	95	Portrait	98
Stevens, Sylvester	54	Portrait.....	24
Trimble, M. U.....	90	Portrait.....	88
Warvelle, G. W.....	87	Portrait.....	84
Werner, A. M.....	92	Portrait.....	92
Winslow, F. C.....	91	Portrait.....	90



PRESENT GRAND MASTER

A SKETCH OF CRYPTIC MASONRY IN ILLINOIS.

By GEO. W. WARVELLE.

INTRODUCTION.

Among the many systems of Exalted Masonic Symbolism now practiced in the United States, none has received a more general recognition or hearty acceptance than the beautiful allegory known as the Rite of the Secret Vault. Yet, like the great mass of our traditions, degrees and ceremonial observances, its origin is unknown, and its early history, for the most part, consists merely of legends that are incapable of verification and, in some instances, unworthy of belief. Its fundamental principles may, indeed, be traced to the English Masonry of the revival, but there is no evidence that its degrees, as such, were ever known or practiced outside of our own country prior to the commencement of the last century, and the preponderating opinion of Masonic archæologists now is that they are the works of the early American ritualists.

The statement has been freely advanced, by no inconsiderable number of brethren who have heretofore written upon this theme, that all of the council degrees were derived primarily from the Scottish Rite and that they are of French or German origin. An analysis of the sources of information must, however, leave a doubt in the mind of every candid and unbiased investigator, and to this is added the further facts that they bear neither legendary affinity nor chronological sequence to any of the continental Royal Arch Systems, past or present, or to that now employed in the A. A. S. R. The degree of Select Master can be made to synchronize with the 14th degree of the latter rite, while the scene of action in both degrees is identical, to wit: the S. V.; but the action itself is entirely dissimilar and the circumstance of location implies nothing more than to indicate a remote common ancestry for both degrees. It is not impossible that the early forms of all of the council degrees may have been conceived in France as elaborations of the English Royal Arch, and that when the Rite of Perfection was established they were discarded as inapplicable to the Royal Arch system which was developed in that rite, or, it may be, that they existed, if at all, only as incidents in the then crude and unformed English Royal Arch legend, and that they were segregated therefrom and given dis-

tinctive names in pursuance of that mania for multiplication of degrees which so strongly characterized French Masonry during the 18th century. The evidence of their continental origin is, however, extremely doubtful, resting mainly upon vague and uncertain hearsay and the unsupported declarations of those whose interest it was to secure and retain their control, while all the presumptions are violently opposed to such a theory.

There is not a scintilla of evidence to show that either the Royal or Select degrees were ever known on the continent of Europe. The names are not mentioned in any of the schedules given by Lenning, Thory, Ragon, or Rebold, nor do they occur in any of the patents, genuine or spurious, which purport to have been issued by the dignitaries of the Rite of Perfection during the latter half of the eighteenth century. There is not a ritual in existence, so far as known, which antedates the year 1800, and the oldest forms of either degree which we now possess unmistakably show a direct connection with Webb's remodeled Royal Arch. Webb's work seems to have been done during the last decade of the eighteenth century and the Cryptic degrees first came into notice during the decade immediately following.

As to their development on American soil there is much diversity of opinion, while the too positive utterances of interested historians, in which fancy and fable have been interwoven with the strands of truth, have still further tended to complicate the question and confuse the searcher after facts. It is generally conceded, however, that both the Royal and Select degrees, and possibly the Super-Excellent, were, at or near the commencement of the last century, "side" or detached degrees floating in the Masonic nebulae of the time, in much the same manner as the Royal Arch had been a few years preceding. They seem, originally, to have had no connection with each other and first became known, through entirely different instrumentalities, in widely separated parts of the country. They were conferred, with little or no show of authority, by individual communication, and when finally erected into organized assemblies or Councils, were, for a number of years, conducted as separate and distinct bodies.

Whatever may have been the origin of the degrees it may be said that the history of Cryptic Masonry, as a coherent and connected system, commences with the year 1818, and that it owes its present existence to the zeal or cupidity, or both combined, of Jeremy L. Cross. It has been clearly established that Cross received the degree of Select Mason from Philip P. Eckle, at Baltimore, in May, 1817, and thereupon actively entered into the work of its dissemination; that early in 1818 he, in some manner, became "possessed" of the degree of Royal Master Mason, which, prior to that time, had been mainly controlled by Thomas Lownds and his associates, at New York, and that he then conceived the project of uniting the two and forming a new system, to which he gave the name Royal and Select Masters. The exact time when this was consummated has never been definitely ascertained, but it was probably at some period between May and August of the year 1818. It does not seem, however, that the plan was fully perfected until the year following. From this period, then, may be dated the commencement of the Cryptic Rite and its existence as an organized branch of Freemasonry.



PAST GRAND MASTER.

and forged deeds were generally sufficient to satisfy those who perchance might demand an inspection of the muniments. Therefore, like most of the other "high degrees" practiced in the United States those of the Cryptic Curriculum will not bear severe critical investigation in tracing the derivation of the authority by which they are conferred. While there are legitimate and recognized sources from which they flow, yet the channels of transmission, in many cases, are either unknown or unconnected with the original fountain. The records of a number of jurisdictions show that in many instances Councils were established on no other authority than such as they assumed for themselves or the equally doubtful powers of some self-constituted "deputy" or "agent," while the degrees, in numberless instances, were "conferred" individually by simple oral communication and without any pretense of authority or semblance of right, other than that which accompanies mere possession.

* * *

Aside from a few unauthenticated instances of communication by certain of the "Inspectors General," the primary dissemination of the degrees, in organized bodies, and under constitutional authority, must be conceded to Henry Wilmans and Philip P. Eckle at Baltimore, and Thomas Lownds at New York, the former controlling the Select, the latter the Royal degree. The Baltimore body, if indeed it can be called a body, never seems to have developed into a permanent organization, but rested rather in the caprice of the "chiefs" who controlled, or assumed to control, the degree of Select Mason. By these men temporary councils were organized whenever it was deemed expedient and the degree was conferred upon persons of their own selection. During the entire period of its exploitation by Wilmans, Eckle and Niles, commencing at about 1795 and ending with the assumption of jurisdiction by the Grand Chapter of Maryland in 1824, it does not seem that any body, bearing any similitude to those then or subsequently established to control or confer the other degrees of Masonry, was ever organized. There was indeed a vague and ill-defined something known as the Grand Council over which Eckle was supposed to preside as "Grand Puissant," but this body never materialized sufficiently to afford a good view, and from all that we can now learn it would seem that Eckle, as Grand Puissant, held and conferred the degree in a sort of proprietary right.

Lownds, on the other hand, subjected his degree of Royal Master Mason to constitutional authority by the organization, in 1810, of a permanent body for its control and diffusion, and this body, which has successfully withstood all the destructive influences of time, is still in existence as Columbian Council, No. 1, of New York.

From these two bodies, mediately or immediately, is derived the Cryptic system instituted by Cross in 1818, and promulgated by him and his "deputies," as well as appropriated and imitated by others who came after him.

For a number of years Cross was very active in establishing councils and conferring degrees. The common report says that he found the business very lucrative, and as none of his charter fees ever found their way



JAMES H. HIBBARD.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1853-54.

to his reputed principal, the "Grand Council of the Select" at Baltimore, there is much reason to believe that these rumors were not altogether unfounded. Finding the growing demand beyond his power to supply without aid, he deputed one Cushman to assist him in the work and a number of councils were organized by his lieutenant. Rival peddlers afterward appeared upon the scene, the most active of whom was John Barker, who worked as an "agent" of the "Supreme Council of the United States," and by virtue of the "high power" in him vested by the "Grand Constitutions of the Thirty-third degree," sold Cross' lectures and organized councils. The combined efforts of these organizers, together with others of lesser note, soon had the effect of producing a very thorough and wide-spread diffusion. Cryptic Masonry became popular; it was cheap and at the same time "way up" and had nothing interfered to stop its onward march we may reasonably assume that it would in time have developed the full beauty of its still latent symbolism and have become one of the great Masonic expositors of the world. But being an exotic, it was acutely sensitive to every depressing influence, and when, by 1830, the fires of fanaticism had been fanned to their fiercest heat, nearly every council in the country had ceased its labors and passed into a condition of dormancy. For a period of ten years, or from 1830 to 1840, the Cryptic page is almost a blank. Then came a slow awakening, but in many localities dormancy had passed into death, and so complete was the extinction that even the memory of Councils and Grand Councils was lost until in after years the student, groping amid the debris of long forgotten days, discovered and brought to light the old records and other evidences of former life. From 1840 to 1850 may be termed the period of the revival, and from this latter date until the present time the rite has made substantial progress, but with periods of depression that can be better explained in connection with other topics embraced in the chronological review of Grand Council.

* * *

The degree of Super-Excellent Master has been conferred in this jurisdiction, "off and on," for many years. For a brief period it formed a part of the regular scale, but with no very definite ideas either as to its fitness or the position it should occupy. It seems to have been imported from Connecticut, or, at all events, was not a part of the ritualistic teachings we received from Kentucky when Grand Council was organized.

Of the origin of this degree nothing is positively known. That there was a degree of this name conferred in this country as early as the last half of the eighteenth century is shown by the records of St. Andrew's Chapter, of Boston, but by the year 1800 it seems to have become lost, nothing remaining but the name. It is presumed, however, to have been the old English degree employed in connection with the Royal Arch, and not the one in present use. The earliest mention of the Super-Excellent degree, in connection with Cryptic Masonry, is December 22, 1817, when a "Lodge" of Super-Excellent Masters was organized within Columbian Council of Royal Masters at New York. There is much reason for surmising that the degree originated at that time and in that body. Prior thereto several now unknown side degrees seem to have been conferred in this Council, all of

which were discontinued after the new degree appeared. The incidents, teachings and ritualistic expression of the American degree bear no resemblance whatever to the English degree of that name, and would seem to have been suggested by the legend of Webb's Royal Arch.

* * *

While the degree of Royal Master seems to have been originally conferred on Master Masons, that of Select Master has always been considered as an extension or explanation of the Royal Arch degree, and its earliest known exploitation was as an adjunct of a Chapter or under Royal Arch auspices. This was its distinctive character while it remained under the control of the Companions who first gave it publicity at Baltimore, and the only authority for its dissemination ever received by Cross, contemplated the retention of this idea, and, although it was soon abandoned by him, its effect was visible for many years, and is still urged in those jurisdictions where Capitular domination continues to be exercised.

In the year 1824 it was formally incorporated as a part of its system by the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and thenceforward, until very recent years, continued to be worked in its regular scale of Capitular degrees. About this time numerous self-constituted "agents" and emissaries were driving an active and lucrative business in the sale of the degrees, which induced the Maryland Companions to appeal to the General Grand Chapter. The matter came up at the session held in 1829, when a resolution was adopted recommending the councils to place themselves under the authority of State Grand Chapters, and granting authority to the Grand Chapters to make such arrangements as might be found necessary for conferring the Cryptic degrees in the Royal Arch Chapters of their obedience. While the General Grand Chapter thus formally recognized the degrees of Royal and Select Master as legitimate parts of the Capitular system, it did little or nothing in the way of carrying out the resolution of 1829, and in 1844, upon the revival of Cryptic interest, the matter again came before it, when, after reaffirming the resolution of 1829, a rule was entered, that the conferring of the Cryptic degrees should be subsequent to that of the Royal Arch. In 1850 a committee was appointed to inquire into the expediency of forming a General Grand Council for the United States, but the committee reported that the measure was inexpedient, and the matter was dropped. In 1853 the Cryptic question was again presented, but by this time Councils and Grand Councils had very generally assumed jurisdiction and labor, and the question was definitely settled by the adoption of a resolution declaring that the General Grand Chapter and the governing bodies of Royal Arch Masons affiliated with and holding jurisdiction under it, had no rightful authority or control over the Royal and Select degrees, and thereafter would entertain no question growing out of the government or working of the same. Thus matters remained until the Session of 1877, when petitions were received from several Grand Chapters, asking permission to take cognizance and jurisdiction of the Cryptic degrees, and permit the conferring of same by their constituent Chapters. The matter was referred to a committee, which reported adversely to the prayer of the petitioners, but the General Grand Chapter was "on the fence" that year, and consideration of the report was postponed until the next ensuing triennial session. In

the meantime, the Grand Chapters pursued their own course, and when the General Grand Body reconvened in 1880, nine of its constituents had practically absorbed the Councils in their respective jurisdictions.

Of the attitude of State Grand Chapters, respecting the control of the degrees, but little can be said based upon official action. In Virginia, at an early day (1841), a mistake of fact induced a dissolution of the Grand Council and a surrender of the degrees to the Chapter which has ever since retained them. Michigan, at its organization, assumed control over the degrees as of right. Maryland always maintained that position, but in most of the States they were tolerated simply when conferred under the auspices of the Chapter. After the decisive action of the General Grand Chapter in 1853, the State Bodies generally disclaimed jurisdiction, and from that time until the "merger," the Cryptic degrees were recognized as an independent and totally distinct branch of the American Masonic System.

* * *

At the present time the Cryptic Rite is steadily advancing in power and influence. In a few States it has been almost totally eclipsed by its showy competitor the commandery, and in a few others maintains only a semblance of vitality, but where *Masonry* is loved and esteemed for itself and not for whatever facilities it may afford as a means of ingress to foreign bodies, it is thriving. It has compelled recognition as an integral part of the speculative science of Freemasonry as practiced in what is now termed the York Rite, and has assumed a strength of position which it never before possessed. That it will ever attain the popularity of the chivalric orders may well be doubted, but it will continue to increase in numbers and its symbolism, philosophy, and teachings will continue to command the respect and attention of the Masonic world. The higher developments of science, whether of physics or metaphysics, is, ever has been, and will ever continue to be, the exclusive property of the few—the *select*, and in the realm of Masonry the conditions are not changed.

THE GRAND COUNCIL.

1852-4.

The degrees of the Cryptic Rite were authoritatively introduced into the State of Illinois from Kentucky in 1852, although they had been conferred for some time prior thereto in several of the Royal Arch chapters. The first council chartered within the present jurisdiction was located at Knoxville and was known as Illinois Council, No. 15, of the registry of the Grand Council of Kentucky. During the year 1853 a further charter was granted by the same authority to Alton Council, at Alton, and the Grand Puissant was instructed to issue a charter to Springfield Council, at Springfield, upon the receipt of its returns, which it seems had miscarried in the mails.

Under the impression that such charter had been granted to Springfield Council, a call for a convention was issued by Illinois Council, and on September 29, 1853, pursuant to such call, delegates from Illinois and Alton Councils met at Mason's Hall, in the city of Jacksonville, for the purpose of establishing an independent government for Cryptic Masonry in this commonwealth. From the records we learn that N. D. Morse, James Price, Wm. McMurtry, Cyrus C. Palmer, Robert Keith and Jacob Brewer appeared as the delegates from Illinois Council, and James H. Hibbard and Wm. H. Turner from Alton Council. The convention organized by electing Nelson D. Morse, President, and Harman G. Reynolds, secretary, and a committee was appointed to draft and report a constitution. On the day following the convention again assembled and James H. Matheny, Charles W. Chatterton, James L. Anderson and A. R. Robinson appeared as delegates from Springfield Council. The Committee on Organization reported back a form of Constitution and General Regulations for the government of the Grand Council, which were unanimously adopted, and thereupon the convention dissolved. Immediately after such dissolution a Council of Royal and Select Masters was opened, with James H. Hibbard as Thrice Illustrious Master and the other official stations filled by men whose names have long been historic in the Masonic annals of Illinois. By a formal resolution the body then declared itself to be a Grand Council, and at the election which followed Comp. Hibbard became the first "Grand Puissant."

The first sovereign act of the new Grand Council was to introduce and "heal" a number of companions who had received the degrees under the authority of Royal Arch chapters. The next step was to receive and act upon the petitions of three Royal Arch Masons who "were duly elected, and the degrees conferred upon them by and with the consent of the members of Illinois Council present." Now, whether this means that Illinois Council or Grand Council conferred the degrees the record leaves in doubt; but it would seem that Grand Council performed the work, and, presumably, took the fees, as the record says, "fees paid." At this juncture occurred another singular proceeding, for Grand Council "called off" to meet at Spring-

field the next day and the record discloses that it was actually called to labor in that city on the evening following. At this adjourned session the order of precedence was established and Illinois Council was registered as No. 1, Springfield as No. 2, and Alton as No. 3. Then, by way of diversion, Grand Council performed a little more work for Illinois Council and the assembly closed.

But it would seem that the companions who thus assumed to create a new governing body were a trifle premature, and while their convention had been held "under the impression derived from a reliable source" that charters had been granted to Alton and Springfield Councils, yet, as a matter of fact, the charter of Springfield Council, owing to reasons before mentioned, was not actually issued until February, 1854. When this fact became known a new call was made and a second convention was held at Springfield on March 10, 1854, at which delegates were present from all three of the chartered councils of the State. The constitution of September 30, 1853, was readopted, and the convention dissolved. A council was then opened, with William A. Dickey as T. I. M., and after a solemn declaration that the delegates present do *now* form a Grand Council for Illinois, the "elections, resolutions, orders and proceedings" of the meeting at Jacksonville on September 30, and the adjourned meeting at Springfield on October 1, 1853, were adopted as the acts "of this Grand Council" and "in all respects legalized and confirmed." But nothing was said specifically of the companions who were "healed" at the former meeting. Indeed, the Grand Council seems to have entirely changed its attitude toward all such companions, for it was now resolved that all Royal Arch Masons receiving the Cryptic degrees in Chapters, after September, 1851, should be treated as clandestine and in no event should be healed or admitted to councils in any other than the "regular manner."

A "grand convocation" was held at Jacksonville on September 27 of the same year (1854), with James H. Hibbard presiding, and representatives present from the three constituent councils. It would seem that the first official act of the Grand Puissant was to grant a dispensation to J. V. Z. Blaney and others to form a council at Chicago, and at this assembly dispensations were also issued for councils at Jacksonville and Rushville.

James H. Hibbard was re-elected Grand Puissant.

At this time the Grand Council had in its obedience three councils under charter and three more under dispensation, with a total membership, as disclosed by the returns, of ninety-nine.

1855.

A "Grand Annual Convocation" was held at Jacksonville in September, 1855, at which seven councils were represented including those chartered at this session. The seventh council was located at Muscatine, Iowa, and the venerable T. S. Parvin, of that State, was its first T. I. G. M. A further dispensation was also issued for the formation of a Council at Iowa City, Iowa, and the Grand High Priest of Iowa was given plenary authority to heal all irregularly made R. and S. Masters, who had taken the degrees in Chapters previous to the action of General and State Grand Chapters upon the subject, "as he might meet with during his official visits to the several

chapters in the State." A committee was appointed to exemplify the "work," and it was resolved that thereafter no candidate should receive the degrees in Grand Council unless he had previously been proposed and balloted for in the council having jurisdiction over him, and then only for the benefit of such council. As to the impropriety of any Grand body conferring degrees there can be no question, while the legality of such work is open to doubt. Fortunately, Illinois has advanced beyond this stage, but the practice is still pursued in a number of jurisdictions in this country and not even as guardedly as was the case during the early years of our own Grand Council.

Levi Lusk was elected Grand Puissant.

1856.

The convocation of 1856 was held at Jacksonville. A charter was granted for a third Iowa Council at Dubuque, and thus was laid the foundation of the Grand Council of Iowa. It would seem that the "healing powers" of the Grand Puissant were freely exercised during the year and a number of companions who had received the degrees under the authority of the General Grand Chapter, were properly brought into the fold. The meeting of the annual assembly was by resolution fixed "at the same place and on the day previous to that fixed on for the annual meeting of the Grand Chapter," a regulation that has never been changed and which is still in force.

Edward M. M. Clarke was elected Grand Puissant.

1857.

As the Grand Council has been to some extent a ward of the Grand Chapter, so its annual assemblies have always been held at the same time and place as the annual convocation of that body. The session of 1857 was therefore held at Springfield. A charter was granted for a council at St. Louis, Mo., with the late Anthony O'Sullivan as the first T. I. G. M., and this council was one of the germs of the present Grand Council of Missouri.

At this session a committee on Foreign Correspondence was appointed for the first time. An obituary report also appears for the first time, the deceased being Comp. Wm. A. Dickey. The report, as was usual at that day, is in the form of resolutions.

The all-absorbing topic of "uniformity of work" was at this time beginning to be mooted in Grand Council, and the subordinate councils were instructed to adopt the work as taught by the late Wm. A. Dickey. The writer hereof has in his possession a cipher copy of what purports to be the "Dickey work," which for many years was used in the council at Knoxville. A comparison of same with modern productions employed in some jurisdictions, as well as with the present standard of Grand Council, shows that we are nearer the "original" than many of our neighbors who lay great stress on the antiquity and purity of their work.

The election resulted in the choice of J. V. Z. Blaney as Grand Puissant, but as Comp. Blaney was not present he was installed by proxy.

1858. *

The convocation of 1858 was held at Springfield. As Comp. Blaney had never been installed, except by proxy, so he was destined never to preside in Grand Council, for owing to other engagements he was unable to be present

at this session. Sylvester Stevens occupied the East at opening and was subsequently elected Grand Puissant.

The position of the Grand Council of Illinois with reference to the body now known as the General Grand Council has been the subject of much comment both at home and abroad. But in adhering to a policy of sturdy independence the Cryptic Masons of Illinois are but pursuing a line of conduct laid down by the fathers of the Rite in this jurisdiction. The subject of a General Grand Council occupied the attention of the councils of the country long anterior to the actual formation of a body bearing that name, and in 1858 the Grand Council of Illinois declared its opinion of the measure and indicated its future policy as follows:

Resolved, That this Grand Council is opposed to the formation of a General Grand Council.

This was the first of several resolutions of like character passed at different dates.

At this session a committee was appointed to prepare an installation ceremony for the use of Grand Council. This duty was subsequently performed and the report of the committee may be found in the printed proceedings for 1860. It presents many points of superiority over the ceremony now in use and one cannot but wonder why it should have been discarded.

1859.

At the convocation of 1859, which was held at Springfield, Comp. Stevens was not present, and Chas. W. Matheny acted as Grand Puissant, a position he soon after assumed by election.

The reports show that at this time there were nine chartered councils in the jurisdiction, of which five only made returns or paid dues. The Grand Puissant was authorized to act in his discretion with respect to the recalcitrants and then commenced the process of revocation of charters, which has continued to our own day.

It seems that certain railroads had "honored" Grand Council by "passing" its representatives for half fare, whereupon a resolution of thanks was adopted with the following remarkable addendum:

Resolved, That we recommend to the craft to patronize said companies.

At this session was also adopted a line of policy which still prevails, as will be seen by the following:

Resolved, That all Comp. Royal Arch Masons residing more than thirty miles from any Council, shall be authorized to receive the degrees in any Council in the State.

1860.

The "Grand Annual Convocation" of this year was held at Springfield, five councils being represented. One new council was chartered at this session (Mattoon, No. 10), but no material advance seems to have been made as the Councils at Rushville, Jacksonville, and Knoxville again failed to make returns or pay dues and from all appearances were on the point of dissolution. The Grand Puissant called attention to the fact that Grand Com-mandery did not require "a knowledge of the Cryptic degrees in order to

obtain the Orders of Knighthood," and recommended "that all reasonable means be adopted to promote the knowledge of these degrees, and extend the Order in this State." This seems to have been the first allusion to the since much discussed question of "prerequisite," but no attention seems to have been paid to the recommendation.

Geo. W. Deering was elected Grand Puissant.

1861-5.

During the years 1861-5, or the period covered by the Civil War, Grand Council was in a "languishing" condition. But little was done in the way of extension and many of the chartered councils exhibited a lamentable degree of apathy. The reports of the annual convocations are very meager and the business transacted was of a strictly routine character. At the session of 1861 Geo. W. Deering was re-elected Grand Puissant, but declined to serve—the first and *only* instance of the kind on record in this jurisdiction—whereupon Charles Fisher was elected to the office, and at the annual of 1862 he was re-elected. The election of 1863 resulted in the choice of O. H. Miner. During this year two new councils were chartered in Missouri, and in May following (1864) these councils met and organized the present Grand Council of Missouri, thus making the second Grand Council born of the Grand Council of Illinois.

At the convocation of 1864 eight councils made returns and paid dues, while the combined membership amounted to only 249. Of the remaining councils some were sleeping, some were dead. There were at this time, however, seven councils under dispensation, and the outlook was far from unfavorable.

J. L. Ramsay was elected Grand Puissant.

With the close of hostilities came a revival in Masonic interest, and of this the Cryptic Rite received a portion. Thirteen councils made returns to the convocation of 1865.

James H. Miles was elected Grand Puissant.

1866.

The year 1866 was a "record breaker." Under the vigorous administration of Comp. Miles a great advance was made. Twelve new councils were opened under dispensation and seventeen chartered councils made returns to the session. The treasury showed funds aggregating \$766.89, the largest amount it had ever contained, and for the first time mileage and per-diem was paid to the representatives.

James A. Hawley was elected Grand Puissant.

1867.

The year 1867, while not as favorable as the one preceding, showed good results in many directions. Twenty-seven councils made returns, and a number of dispensations were issued. The forms for dedications and installations as laid down in Mackey's "Manual of the Council" were adopted for use in the jurisdiction.

Daniel G. Burr was elected Grand Puissant.



LEVI LUSK.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1855.

1868.

The tide of prosperity still continued to rise, and the year 1868 witnessed four new councils inaugurated, while twenty-nine chartered councils made returns. The aggregate membership of the jurisdiction had grown to 1,132, and a total revenue of \$924.50 had been collected. The subject of work, which, up to this time, seems to have received but little attention, now commenced to be discussed, and we may take this as the period from which our liturgies date their real advance. The ritual taught by H. W. Hubbard and known as the "Connecticut work," was considered more desirable than any other of the numerous brands then in use, as it embraced all of the lectures as taught by Barney and Dickey. The subject came before Grand Council on the suggestion of the Grand Puissant, who was authorized to commission a Grand Lecturer "and with him determine the work to be adopted for all councils in this jurisdiction."

John M. Pearson was elected Grand Puissant.

1869.

The annual assembly of 1869 showed no diminution in Cryptic interest. Several new councils were chartered and thirty-two old councils made returns. A new ritual, compiled by H. W. Hubbard, was presented and formally adopted as the standard of the jurisdiction. A copy of this ritual, possibly the only one in the jurisdiction, is now in the possession of the writer of these annals.

The "Super-Excellent" degree was at this time commencing to attract considerable attention in Cryptic circles. It was not officially known, however, in this jurisdiction, and the Grand Puissant recommended that such steps be taken as would enable Grand Council "to act understandingly" at its next assembly. The Committee on Address endorsed the recommendation and further recommended that a committee be appointed to obtain from the Grand Council of Connecticut "a dispensation authorizing and empowering the said committee to confer the said degree upon the members of this Grand Council, at its next annual Grand Assembly." But little was known concerning the degree at this time. It was not in general use, although several jurisdictions had formally adopted it as a part of their regular scale, and by many old and well-informed Masons it was considered to be "a recent concoction of some fertile Masonic brain." Such, however, was not the case, for comparatively recent discoveries have disclosed the fact that it was conferred in Columbian Council, of New York, as early as 1817. But Illinois wanted all that there was. It wanted the Super-Excellent—and it got it.

Wm. M. Avise was elected Grand Puissant.

1870.

The year 1870 was one of continued prosperity. The report of the Grand Puissant showed seven new councils instituted and fifty chartered councils made returns. The Super-Excellent degree had been imported from Connecticut by Comp. Sylvester Stevens with a plenary authority to confer it upon all R. & S. M.'s in the State "until the Grand Council of Illinois shall adopt said degree, and make the same one of the constitutional degrees of the said jurisdiction." Under this dispensation the Grand Puissant received the degree with which he expressed himself as "much pleased," and further

asserted his belief that if adopted by Grand Council and "properly worked," it would "tend materially toward promoting the prosperity of Cryptic Masonry in this jurisdiction." If Comp. Avise could have seen Comp. Bowditch, of Aurora, leading the van of the victorious Chaldean army he would have gone into raptures. At all events Grand Council was entirely satisfied with the Connecticut version, and to show its appreciation it was

Resolved, That this Grand Council adopt the degree of Super-Excellent Master, and authorize the Councils, working under charters and dispensations issued by it, to confer it as the third degree in the Council work.

The matter of the recognition of the Cryptic degrees by the Order of Knights Templar had several times been casually discussed, but at this session it received a careful and serious consideration. The active members of Grand Council were all Knights of influence and standing, and it was thought that a proper presentation of the subject would be productive of favorable results; accordingly it was

Resolved, That a Committee of five, of which the Grand Puissant shall be Chairman, be appointed to present before the Grand Commandery of Illinois the subject of a recognition of the Council degrees.

Resolved, That should the Grand Commandery of Illinois recognize the degrees conferred in the Councils of the State as a prerequisite to the reception of the Order of Knighthood, the subordinate Councils of this jurisdiction are empowered to confer the Council degrees upon all Knights Templars residing in their several jurisdictions, without fee, either for Grand Council or subordinate.

And so Grand Council thus commenced its fruitless task of attempting to attain the unattainable.

At this session (1870) the Constitution was amended by adding to the list of officers the present office of Grand Conductor, and Edward Blackshaw, of Urbana, became, by election, the first incumbent.

Hiram W. Hubbard was elected Grand Puissant.

* * *

In this connection, and as forming a part of the history of Cryptic Masonry in Illinois, a brief allusion to the attitude and action of Grand Commandery with respect to the Cryptic Rite may not be out of place.

At the session of Grand Commandery held in 1869 the matter of Cryptic recognition was formally brought to the attention of that body by the Grand Commander, Sir J. R. Gorin, who, in his annual address made the following suggestion:

"That much complaint is made (and justly, too, I think) that it is not made a necessary qualification, before receiving the Orders of Knighthood, that the candidates should first have received the Council Degrees. So long as that branch of Masonry remains a separate and distinct body, making it requisite before entering its portals that the candidate must have received all of the intermediate Degrees, from Entered Apprentice to and including the Royal Arch, it does seem to me that it is desirable, if not absolutely necessary, that the Grand Commandery should require of every one seeking admission into our Asylum, that they come fully qualified, by having taken all of the preceding Degrees, from Entered Apprentice to Royal and Select Master. I suggest that this subject be referred to a special committee for consideration and report."

The committee on address endorsed the recommendation for reference and added to the Grand Commander's remarks the following:

"While on the subject of this recommendation of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, they beg leave to say that there appears to them much propriety in making these degrees a prerequisite to admission into our Orders. Cryptic Masonry is a part and parcel of Ancient Craft Masonry. Without it Masonry is incomplete; with it, our ancient institution is rounded off into one consistent, harmonious whole. Masonry, which may be said to be founded in natural religion, forms a basis of our superstructure; while the chivalric orders of Knighthood, constituting the apex, had their origin and receive their life from the benign influences of revealed religion, which is the voice of Infinite Wisdom and Mercy speaking to fallen man. How manifestly proper, then, that the foundation, Masonry, should be complete and perfect before we attempt to erect thereon the beautiful Temple of Christian Knighthood."

By resolution the matter was referred to a special committee to report at the next ensuing annual conclave. When Grand Commandery reassembled the year following (1870) the committee duly reported back the following:

Your committee raised by a resolution reported by the Committee on Doings of Grand Officers in 1869, to take into consideration the suggestion of P. G. Commander Gorin, made at the last annual Conclave, relating to the Council Degrees would report:

That they have had the matter under consideration. We find, by reference to the proceedings of the Grand Encampment of 1856, that M. E. William B. Hubbard, at the time Grand Master, disapproved of the action of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, in requiring the Council Degrees as a prerequisite of the Orders of Knighthood.

Your committee find that the decision was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence; by them reported upon, and the report laid over for consideration at the triennial session of 1859, in which latter year no action was had thereon—no allusion thereto being made.

That the Grand Commandery of Connecticut deemed the decision inoperative and void, not being approved by the Grand Encampment, is apparent, from the fact that the Grand Commandery of Connecticut refused, and still refuses, to rescind its action, and the Grand Encampment has not, as yet, after a lapse of fourteen years, called them to account therefor.

Your Committee are eminently impressed with the wisdom of the suggestion of Past Grand Commander Gorin, tending, as it will, if carried out, to unite, in one strong, unbroken chain, the whole system of American Masonry. But inasmuch as doubts seem to oppress the minds of some of this Grand Commandery, we submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the R. E. Grand Commander be requested to enter into correspondence with the M. E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, as to the right of this Grand Commandery to adopt a regulation requiring the possession of the Council Degrees as a prerequisite to the conferring of the Orders of Knighthood.

Resolved, That, in the event of the decision of the M. E. Grand Master, that the Grand Commandery has such right, the R. E. Grand Commander be, and is, hereby authorized to submit the questions as to the requirement of said degrees to each Chartered Commandery, for its vote thereon.

On motion, the report was received and the resolutions adopted. In pursuance of the resolutions the Grand Commander made due inquiry of the Grand Master, Wm. S. Gardner, who promptly replied that Grand Commandery had no right "to adopt a regulation requiring the possession of the Council degrees as a prerequisite to the conferring of the Orders of Knighthood," and expressing his opinion that if our system consisted of the

three degrees of "Blue Masonry, the Royal Arch and Order of the Temple," it would be much better, and that he would "much prefer to see the Order of the Temple brought nearer to the fountain head of pure Masonry than to have it separated further from it by the interposition of still more rubbish." This last paragraph will bear considerable study. His successor in office, J. Q. A. Fellows, was even more emphatic and suggested that the Royal Arch be disregarded and the candidates taken direct from the lodge. Why not direct from the public? That would certainly give a wider field. However, the Grand Master's letter settled the matter, and while the present "rubbish" will doubtless remain, no more will be interposed to impede the steps of the aspirant for knightly honors.

1871.

The nineteenth annual assembly was held October 5, 1871. In February of this year a fire occurred in the building occupied by the Grand Recorder at Springfield, which resulted in the total loss of the records and archives of Grand Council. No special action has ever been taken looking toward the restoration of the records, and the only annals of Grand Council now in existence are the few scattered reports of proceedings in the hands of individuals or deposited in libraries. Many of the earlier years are practically unattainable, and it is to be hoped that Grand Council may be induced to undertake a reprint of its earlier transactions.

During the year the Grand Puissant (Comp. Hubbard) devoted his energies to the introduction of the Super-Excellent degree, and with such success that every council was provided with an opportunity of availing itself of the work.

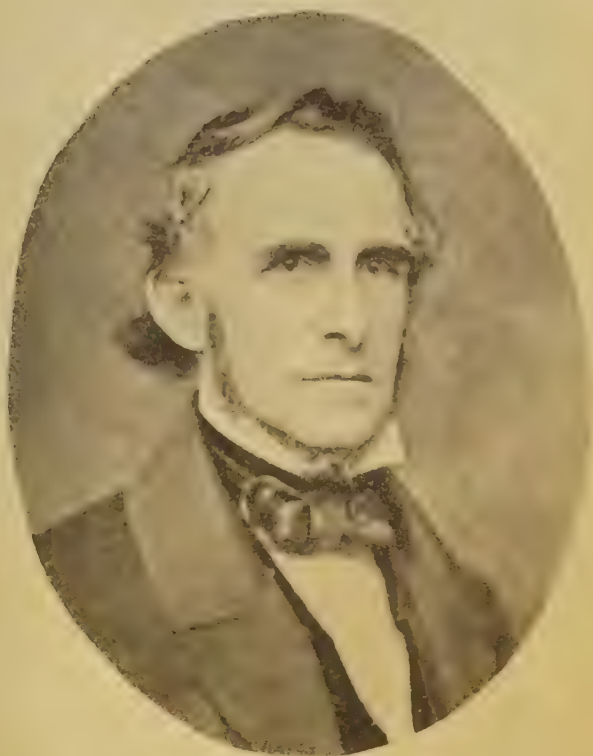
The subject of "prerequisite" was again presented and discussed, but the records do not show that any action was had.

William A. Levanway was elected Grand Puissant.

1872.

The twentieth annual assembly, held in Chicago, October 23, 1872, found the Rite in a fairly prosperous condition. There were now nearly sixty councils in the jurisdiction and each year witnessed additions to the number. The Grand Commandery, while in sympathy with the Rite, had as yet done little in the way of attempting to unify the American System of Freemasonry by measures looking toward a recognition of the Council degrees, and the opinion in that body seemed to be that the solution of the question was in the sole province of the Grand Encampment. The subject continued to be discussed in Grand Council, and for several years afterward was pressed upon Grand Commandery whenever occasion offered, but with what success we all know.

At this assembly the precedence and order of degrees were established and councils were directed to confer same in the following order: First, Royal Master; second, Super-Excellent Master; third, Select Master. Just what induced this arrangement is not known, but as the S. E. had been adopted as a regular degree and as the S. M. had always been the ultimate degree in this jurisdiction, it is probable that the new degree was sandwiched between the two old ones because there appeared no other position in which it could be placed.



E. M. M. CLARKE.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1856.

During this year a "National Convention" of R. & S. M.'s was held at New York for the purpose of advisory action with reference to the names, number and order of degrees, the nomenclature of bodies and officers and uniformity of ritual. Illinois was not officially represented, but the conclusions and recommendations of the Convention found a ready assent in this jurisdiction, and were instrumental in shaping much of its subsequent legislation.

Geo. E. Lounsbury was elected Grand Puissant.

1873.

The session of 1873 was uneventful, yet the year seems to have been one of progress. The Grand Puissant reported having attended the adjourned session of the National Convention at New York, and recommended to Grand Council the appointment of a committee to consider the matters discussed at such convention and report at the next annual assembly.

The subject of official degrees never seems to have been much mooted in this jurisdiction. While there is considerable reason for the existence of the Order of High Priesthood, in view of its ostensible sacerdotal character, there are no very good arguments that can be advanced for the creation of a separate degree for Thrice Illustrious Masters. The idea was doubtless suggested by the analogy of the degree of Past Master, but this, properly speaking, is not so much a degree as an official dignity, and formerly it consisted of nothing more. It would seem, however, that, inspired by the actions of other jurisdictions, a "Council of Past Thrice Illustrious Masters" had been organized under the auspices of Grand Council, and on motion of Comp. N. T. P. Robertson it was

Resolved, That it is the desire of this Grand Council that the degree of Past Thrice Illustrious Grand Master be recognized as a legal and official degree (that may be conferred upon those lawfully entitled thereto), under the patronage of this Grand Council, and under the management of the Council of Past Thrice Illustrious Masters now organized.

But this seems to have been the highest stage of development the project attained. If the Council ever met, adopted a ritual or conferred degrees, the records do not disclose the fact, nor has the writer, during more than twenty-seven years of active experience in this branch of Masonry, ever heard of the organization.

John F. Burrill was elected Grand Puissant.

1874.

The record of the assembly of 1874 presents but little that is worthy of note. The Grand Puissant recommended the adoption of the "Convention work," an exemplification of which was made before Grand Council by the officers of Siloam Council, No. 53; but no action was had.

The "National Convention" which met in adjourned session the year before, had again adjourned, to meet in New Orleans in December of this year. The prolongation of the life of this body, as well as the character of some of the resolutions submitted, raised the impression that the movement covered an attempt to form a General Grand Council; wherefore, that the position of Illinois might not be misunderstood, Grand Council for the sec-

ond time placed upon record, by a formal resolution, its opposition to the establishment of a General Grand Council.

Wilbur F. Bromfield was elected Grand Puissant.

1875.

The proceedings of the year 1875 indicate a diminution of Cryptic interest and mark the commencement of the only period of genuine "depression" which the rite has ever experienced in this jurisdiction. No new councils were instituted this year—a circumstance of no consequence in itself but which, at the time, was regarded as a most unfavorable omen.

The Grand Puissant renewed the recommendation of his predecessor that some action be taken in regard to the "convention work," and suggested its adoption. Grand Council assented, but before the close of the session reconsidered its action and so for another year nothing was done in this respect. In the meantime the councils used such work as they saw fit. Councils were given permission to confer the Super-Excellent by obligation only. The titles of the presiding officers were revised by Constitutional amendment, whereby the Grand Puissant became Most Puissant Grand Master, and the office of Deputy was subjected to a corresponding change. This nomenclature coincided with that used by the Grand Councils immediately contiguous. The system of titles in use in Illinois was derived from Kentucky and conformed in most respects with those employed in the oldest known rituals. Iowa and Missouri, both daughters of Illinois, had long before discarded the traditional titles received from their parent at the time of their birth, and the Grand Council of Illinois, unwilling longer to stand on the old ways, now took a place in the march of "progress" by abandoning the names which for twenty-three years had designated its chief officers.

The subject of Commandery recognition was the live topic of the session. The hopes of future existence seemed to hang upon this slender thread, and finally, as a result of the discussion, Comp. J. R. Gorin presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were, on motion, received and adopted, viz.:

WHEREAS, It is evident to every member of this Grand Council that the existence of Cryptic Masonry is jeopardized, and, unless some proper action be taken, this Grand Council and all its subordinates may be numbered among the things that were; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Thrice Ill. Grand Puissant, whose duty it shall be to prepare a memorial to the Grand Commandery of Illinois, asking that body to make a regulation which shall provide that the Orders of Knighthood shall not be conferred upon any one who has not previously received the degrees conferred in the Council.

Resolved further, That said committee send a copy of said memorial to each subordinate commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, asking their concurrence therein.

The committee was appointed, the memorial prepared, presented to Grand Commandery and by it fraternally received. As we have seen this subject had frequently been canvassed before in Grand Commandery, which had virtually been enjoined from taking any positive action thereon. Some years previous the matter had been referred to Wm. Sewall Gardner, the then Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, who politely informed Grand Commandery that under no circumstances could it make the council degrees, which he cour-

teously referred to as "rubbish," a prerequisite for the Knightly Orders, and Grand Commandery, being itself but a subordinate, could, under the circumstances, do nothing more than deny the prayer of the Grand Council's petition. And thus ended the effort.

However, Grand Commandery was favorably disposed to the project and desirous of showing its good will, for at the session of 1876, when the above mentioned memorial was presented, it was

Resolved, That the Representatives of this Grand Commandery to the Grand Encampment of the United States be requested to use all reasonable efforts, at the next session of that Grand Body, to make the Cryptic degrees a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood.

There is little doubt that if Grand Commandery had been a sovereign body Illinois would have followed the lead of Connecticut and "recognition" would long ago have been an assured fact.

When we learn that Grand Council at this time had at least forty-two active councils in its obedience, the solicitude of the companions seems a trifle unwarranted and can be accounted for only on the theory that to them success meant great numerical accessions, and prosperity, large treasury balances. As a matter of fact, neither of these elements is necessary to the success of any Masonic body.

Edward Blackshaw was elected M. P. Grand Master.

1876.

At the assembly of 1876 forty councils made returns and paid dues, yet the general tone of the proceedings would indicate that matters generally were in a bad condition. But one panacea was prescribed, and that was "pre-requisition." Upon the approaching triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment all hopes were centered. The Grand Master (Comp. Blackshaw) reported a dispensation for a new council; recommended that the Super-Excellent degree be stricken from the regular scale and made an honorarium; and suggested that the true remedy for the alleged evils under which the Rite seemed to labor was in the development of the latent symbolism of the degrees, and not in vain efforts to impress them upon unwilling candidates for other distinctions.

Grand Council refused to eliminate the Super-Excellent, but changed the scale so that it should come last.

The committee on memorial to Grand Commandery reported that the memorial had been received and referred. Comp. P. W. Barclay was appointed a committee "to represent the memorial in the Grand Encampment of the United States," and was empowered "to propose a plan or basis" upon which action might be had by that body, the Grand Council pledging itself "to carry out and fulfill the terms of such plan or basis as may be agreed upon by said committee."

L. R. Jerome was elected M. P. Grand Master.

1877-82.

The year 1877 witnessed a crisis in the affairs of Grand Council. For several years succeeding the panic of 1873 the commerce of the country was in a depressed condition, resulting in much financial stringency. These conditions were felt in all branches of Masonry, but more particularly

in the council. In the opinion of many the council required aid, and while they cast about to discover some source from which such aid might be derived it never occurred to the majority that possibly the best plan would be to help themselves. The delegation appointed to memorialize the Grand Encampment met with a decided rebuff at the hands of that body, the memorial being rejected without debate. Nothing, therefore, could be longer hoped for in that direction. Now in looking at the situation from this distance it does not seem that affairs were in very desperate straits or that there was any occasion for much despondency, yet when the news reached Illinois that the Grand Encampment had refused to entertain our memorial the consensus of opinion seemed to be that it was useless to longer continue the organization of the Rite.

The views of Illinois were undoubtedly influenced, and to a large degree shaped, by the sentiment then prevailing in many of the States. For some time previous thereto several of the weaker jurisdictions had been sending forth plaintive wails, and as a last resource had concluded to transfer the control of the degrees to the chapters. In Mississippi this had just been done; and, impressed with the feeling that the "Mississippi plan" would be generally followed throughout the country, the M. P. Grand Master (Comp. Jerome) recommended to the annual assembly that a committee be appointed to meet a like committee from Grand Chapter to arrange the details of a transfer of authority over the degrees. To this arrangement Grand Council consented with apparently but one dissenting voice (Comp. Blackshaw).

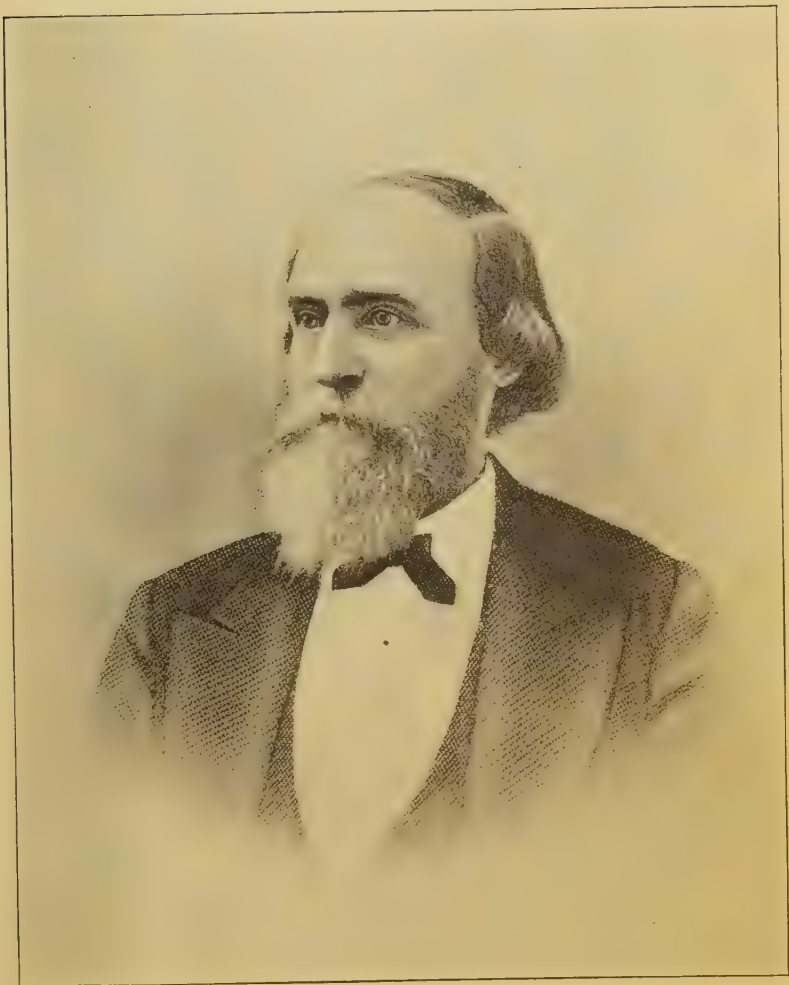
The routine business of the Grand Council was then transacted, and J. J. French was elected M. P. Grand Master.

Grand Council then called off until after the close of Grand Chapter, for the purpose of receiving and acting upon the report of the conference committee.

The conference committee on the part of Grand Council consisted of Comps. Jno. M. Pearson, H. W. Hubbard, T. T. Gurney, A. A. Glenn and P. W. Barclay. This committee duly prepared and presented to Grand Chapter a memorial on the matter of jurisdiction and control of the council degrees, representing that in order to avoid the labor incident to two separate organizations, and at the same time provide for the safe keeping and proper dissemination of the degrees, it was advisable that some plan of consolidation be accomplished, and praying the appointment of a conference committee on the part of Grand Chapter.

This memorial was referred by Grand Chapter to a special committee, which, after a meeting with the Council committee, reported back to Grand Chapter

"That there was no constitutional objection to a union of the R. and S. Masters' degrees with those conferred in the Royal Arch Chapters, and that said union is practicable; and your committee are of the opinion that the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters should take the preparatory steps to bring about said union; and would further recommend that if said Grand Council shall so amend their constitution at their present Grand Assembly as to be enabled to agree to said union, that the M. E. High Priest of this Grand Chapter be, and is hereby, authorized and requested to appoint a commission, whose duty it shall be to prepare and submit to him a full and



JAMES V. Z. BLANEY.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1857.

detailed plan for the consummation of such union, and to put the same in full operation."

This action having been reported to Grand Council by its conference committee, the constitution was amended by striking out such parts thereof as conflicted with the authority which it was proposed should be delegated and then, on motion of Comp. T. T. Gurney, it was

Resolved, That this Grand Council surrender to the Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Illinois, all constitutional right to confer, or authorize the conferring, the degrees of Royal and Select Masters; and

Resolved, That the action of this Grand Council in amending the Constitution aforesaid, shall be null and void, if, within two years from this date, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois shall fail to adopt the degrees of this body as a part of the Ritual and Work of Capitular Masonry.

On motion of Comp. John M. Pearson, it was

Resolved, That a select committee of three be appointed to confer with a like committee from the Grand Chapter, and perfect the arrangements suggested in the report of the Committee on Consolidation.

Resolved, That the M. P. Grand Master of this Grand Council be, and is hereby, requested to issue his edict to the Subordinate Councils, and the members thereof, ordering obedience, and conformity to the terms of said arrangement.

Notwithstanding that Grand Council, by its constitutional amendments, had virtually destroyed its power over the degrees, yet as the final act of the session it was unanimously resolved that the degree of Super-Excellent Master "be stricken out of the Council degrees as now recognized by this Grand Council." Thereupon Grand Council adjourned until its next annual assembly.

As soon after adjournment as convenience would permit the committees of Grand Chapter and Grand Council met, adjusted whatever matters of difference there might be, and agreed upon a basis for future action. The result of their deliberations was then communicated to the presiding officers of both bodies in the following report and concordat:

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois, and the Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Illinois:

WHEREAS, The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Illinois, at its Grand Annual Assembly, held at Chicago, Friday, October 26th, 1877, unanimously adopted the following, to-wit:

"Resolved, That this Grand Council surrender to the Grand Chapter of the State of Illinois all constitutional right to confer, or authorize the conferring, the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master;"

THEREFORE, The undersigned, committees appointed by authority of the Grand Chapter of the State of Illinois, and by the authority of the Grand Council of the State of Illinois, respectively, to prepare a detailed plan for the perpetuation of the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master, by and under the authority of the Grand Chapter, submit the following:

I. That the degrees of Royal and Select Master be accepted by the Grand Chapter, and shall be hereafter conferred as follows:

Each Royal Arch Chapter shall open a Council of Royal and Select Masters, and confer the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master subsequent to the degree of Royal Arch Mason. The officers of the Chapter to hold corresponding rank in the Council.

II. All Royal Arch Masons, at the date of the consummation of this plan, shall be entitled to receive the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master without fee.

III. All permanent members and present Grand Officers of the Grand Council shall be admitted to the Grand Chapter as honorary members.

IV. That the officers of all Chapters in this jurisdiction shall qualify themselves in the work of conferring the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master as soon as possible.

V. That the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, being custodian of the work and Ritual of all degrees conferred under the authority of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois, shall, as soon as practicable, take the necessary steps to carry out the foregoing plan.

Fraternally submitted,

JOHN M. PEARSON,
THEODORE T. GURNEY,
HENRY G. PERRY,
Committee of Grand Council.
WILEY M. EGAN,
ARTHUR R. H. ATKINS,
HIRAM W. HUBBARD,
Committee of Grand Chapter.

The terms and provisions of the concordat were then duly published and promulgated throughout the jurisdiction in a joint encyclical signed by the Grand High Priest and the M. P. Grand Master, and the transfer became effective.

It will be observed that there was no consolidation. There was, properly speaking, no "merger," although the period then succeeding has been so termed. Grand Council simply authorized the constituents of Grand Chapter to confer the degrees, and the right thus delegated was practically a dispensation to open councils and receive candidates. Hence all Royal and Select Masters received in such Chapter Councils, having been admitted to the degrees under and by authority of Grand Council, are in all respects regular and fully entitled to cryptic recognition. It will further be observed that there was no dissolution. Grand Council still retained its organized existence, and during the period of chapter exploitation continued to hold its annual assemblies, elect officers, and perform other acts of routine business. Nor did any of its constituent councils change their legal condition. No charters were surrendered or avoided. It was simply a period of inaction. No dues were collected, no Grand Council tax was paid. The councils remained as they were, ready to resume their active duties whenever the word should be given. Undoubtedly had the plan of "merger" produced the results intended this temporary dormancy would, in time, have become death, even though no formal decree of ouster and dissolution was pronounced; but at this time the measure was regarded as wholly experimental, and for this reason Grand Council retained its autonomy and preserved its constituents in the like condition.

While the adoption of this plan may have been a justifiable measure in some jurisdictions, the writer feels that in Illinois it was indefensible. The proceedings of 1877 show that thirty-five councils made returns; that seven councils had failed to make returns that year which were not theretofore in arrears, and that only eight councils were behind for two years—certainly not such a showing as to induce a settled belief that there was "no tangible method of saving the Cryptic degrees from the dark waters of oblivion, but to follow the action of the Grand Councils of Mississippi and North Carolina, and relegate them to the jurisdiction of the Grand Chap-

ter." Yet this was the conclusion of the Grand Master, and the committee which considered his address endorsed the conclusion. The fault, if fault there was, lay wholly with the officers. Apathy in the leaders will certainly produce the like condition in the following.

* * *

The five years that followed were very much like a captivity. Grand Chapter did what it could; it amended its constitution so as to legalize the conferring of the Cryptic degrees in councils appendant to its constituent chapters; it provided a revised ritual; it could do no more. It could not compel its constituents to confer the degrees, or if it could it did not, and the constituents, adapting themselves to the situation, conferred them when it suited their convenience, which was not often.

Grand Council held its annual assemblies as usual. That of 1878 showed that some of the councils had held meetings for the transaction of routine business. The Grand Master reported the appointment of a number of representatives and several companions presented their own credentials of appointment.

The status of Royal and Select Masters greeted in Royal Arch Chapters, and their right to sit in Grand Council as visitors was declared in a resolution, which recited that

"This Grand Council having delegated to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Illinois, and through that Grand Body to the several Chapters working under same, the power to confer the degrees of Royal and Select Master, should recognize all Comp. Royal and Select Masters who have received these degrees under that authority."

Philander W. Barclay was elected M. P. Grand Master.

At the assembly of 1879 John O'Neill was elected Grand Master. The assembly of 1880 was a very informal meeting. The Grand Master (Comp. O'Neill) was not present, and Jno. M. Pearson presided. It does not appear that any assembly was held in 1881, and therefore Comp. O'Neill held over.

By the year 1880 a majority of the Grand Councils and Grand Chapters which had formerly thought that the separation of the two systems was not only unnecessary but operated as well to the detriment of both, had begun to revise their opinions. The dangers resulting from the multiplication of Grand bodies was found to be far less of an evil than was first supposed, while the fiction of the preservation of the degrees by capitular supervision had been abundantly demonstrated. Thenceforward there was a growing disposition on the part of both chapters and councils to terminate the arrangement. In our own State this was easily effected, as the Grand Council had never abandoned its organization nor had any of its constituents surrendered their charters. A simple agreement to dissolve the compact by the Grand Chapter and Council and the issuance of an edict by the Grand Council to its constituents were the only steps necessary.

At the assembly of 1882 the sentiment in favor of a resumption of its delegated powers by Grand Council crystallized into a resolution, expressive of the sense of the body that it was "expedient to resume control of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters." A special committee was appointed to consider same and to confer with a similar committee on the part of

Grand Chapter, which in due time reported that "after a full expression of opinion among themselves, and with the members of the committee appointed by the Grand R. A. Chapter of Illinois, for the same purpose, they believed that the interests of both Capitular and Cryptic Masonry would be best promoted by the mutual abrogation of the Treaty made in 1877 between the said two Grand Bodies." Whereupon it was

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be and is hereby instructed to memorialize the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois upon said subject and ask them to take such steps as they may find necessary, to re-commit the care of and the conferring of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters to the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Illinois.

A recess was then taken until after the session of Grand Chapter.

As will be seen by reference to the proceedings of Grand Chapter for 1882, the control of the degrees was willingly relinquished by that body. By resolution the chapters of its obedience were directed to cease from conferring the degrees after Jan. 1, 1883, and Grand Council was requested to take such action in respect thereto as it might deem proper, while the Grand High Priest was instructed to issue an edict to carry the resolution into effect. The constitution was amended so as to eliminate all references to the Cryptic degrees and Grand Council was again at liberty to exercise its ancient prerogatives and constitutional rights.

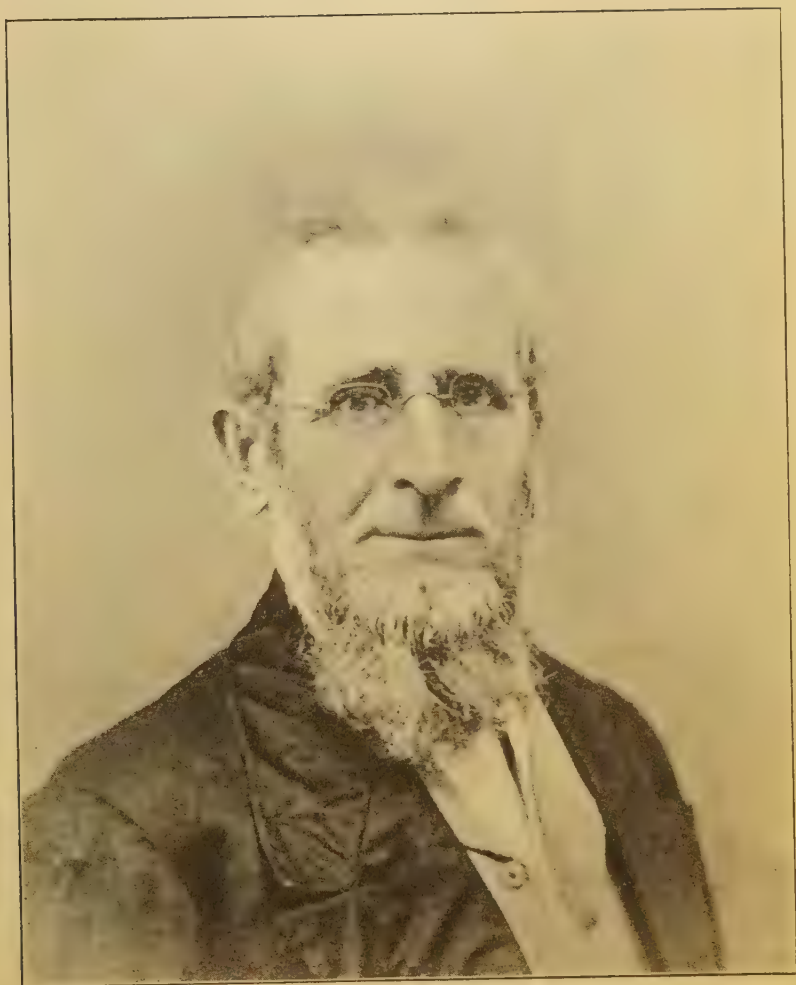
Two days afterward (Oct. 27) Grand Council was called on and the following action taken:

Resolved, That upon the issuance of an edict by the M. E. Grand High Priest of the Grand R. A. Chapter of Illinois, returning to this Grand Council the authority conferred in them to authorize the conferring of the Council degrees, and the issuance of an order by the Most Puissant Grand Master to the Subordinate Councils of this State to resume work, all Royal and Select Masters made under the authority heretofore recited be and are hereby declared regular non-affiliated Royal and Select Masters, entitled to all the rights and benefits of such.

And to enable companions greeted in Chapter Councils to avail themselves of the benefit of the degrees, it was further ordered that a certificate of the fact, under the seal of the chapter to which the council was appendant, should be considered equivalent to a dimit and be accepted as such by all councils in the jurisdiction.

Jno. O'Neill was re-elected M. P. Grand Master.

The terms of the "surrender," by Grand Chapter, provided that the final relinquishment should take effect January 1, 1883, and Grand Council was requested to take such action in reference thereto as it might deem proper. Accordingly the M. P. Grand Master issued an edict directed to the Thrice Illustrious Masters, officers and companions of the jurisdiction, notifying them of the facts and granting a plenary dispensation to the councils to open, elect officers and proceed to work under the rules and regulations of Grand Council as formerly in force. The response was highly gratifying. Over twenty councils gave immediate notice that they had resumed work, while a large number sent expressions of their approval. All were satisfied of the inutility of the "Mississippi plan," and all rejoiced that the years of the captivity had come to an end.



SYLVESTER STEVENS.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1858.

1883.

The thirty-first annual assembly was held at Chicago, October 24, 1883, Comp. Jno. O'Neill presiding. Twenty-one councils were represented. Four new councils were chartered. The constitution as it existed prior to the 26th day of October, 1877, was restored and Grand Council quietly settled back into the old grooves in which it had so long moved previous to the "merger."

Geo. W. Curtiss was elected M. P. Grand Master.

It was hardly to be expected that matters would move as easily after the rude displacement occasioned by the merger as before that event. A number of councils had become so "dormant" that more than a mere edict was required to awaken them, while a few had actually passed into the sleep of death. By the vigorous efforts of the officers who have been called to the East since the "resumption," many of these dead councils have actually been resuscitated, and where this was not possible new councils, sometimes bearing the old names and numbers, have been planted in their stead.

1884.

The assembly of 1884 was attended by the representatives of twenty-one Councils, while the reports show that twenty-five councils made returns. The ritual promulgated by the Grand Chapter, virtually the "Convention work," was reaffirmed and adopted as the standard of the jurisdiction.

Harvey E. Huston was elected M. P. Grand Master.

1885.

The year 1885 marks the final resumption of its powers by Grand Council and a full return to the old ways. Under the faithful and efficient supervision of Ill. Comp. Huston the "waste places" commenced to blossom; new councils were instituted, old councils were revived, cryptic interest was awakened and bright prospects opened in the future.

Through a misconception on the part of some of the officers, with respect to the treaty of 1877 and the action had thereunder, it was thought necessary to "heal" companions made under the warrant of Chapter Councils. The "healing" consisted of nothing more than an obligation of fealty to Grand Council. It seems to have been an unpopular measure, being received with much disfavor by the companions most interested, and in many instances meeting with decided opposition. This illusion, though soon dispelled, afforded an opportunity for much adverse criticism as to the character of the R. & S. M.'s made during the merger, and for several years succeeding Grand Council sustained a sharp contention with a number of jurisdictions. Its chief opponent was the then newly formed General Grand Council. This organization is a league, formed in 1880 by sixteen of the State Grand Councils, which asserts sovereign jurisdiction over the United States. The Grand Council of Illinois has never deemed it expedient to unite in this league, although frequently expressing fraternal feelings toward same; nor has it ever acknowledged its claim of supremacy as a governing body. At this session proxies "to heal" were given to all presiding officers of councils, and it was not until the year 1887 that it was discovered that the work of the chapters required no "healing," as it possessed no infirmities.

A new constitution was adopted at this assembly, which produced several

important changes. The office of "Grand Thrice Illustrious," which for thirty-three years had been a standing enigma, was abolished. So, too, the word "Puissant," which, as a portion of the presiding officer's title, had been associated with Cryptic Masonry from its birth, was eliminated, the word "Illustrious" being substituted therefor.

Harvey E. Huston was re-elected M. I. Grand Master.

1886.

The year 1886 was one of comparative quiet. The preparations for the triennial parade of the Commanderies at St. Louis had absorbed much of the energy of the cryptic workers, and, as is usually the case in triennial years, cryptic matters remained quiet until the periodic fever had subsided.

At the annual assembly a measure was introduced looking toward a change in the qualifications of candidates by opening the councils to Master Masons. The measure went over for a year and was then rejected.

A revised ritual, based upon the convention work as modified by that of Ohio, was adopted.

It appearing that some jurisdictions were disposed to deny Cryptic character to such of the companions in the obedience of Grand Council as were greeted during the merger, it was felt that some assertion of protection was required; hence the Grand Master was authorized to issue an edict of non-intercourse between all councils and companions of any jurisdiction which might be guilty of the offense. Happily, no occasion ever arose for the exercise of the authority.

Nathaniel Bowditch was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1887.

The assembly of 1887 evinced an increasing interest in cryptic matters throughout the State. The energetic and well directed efforts of Comp. Bowditch had resulted in the resuscitation of a large number of dormant councils and several dispensations for new ones. Many of the old "wheel horses" who had vociferously proclaimed the extinction of Cryptic Masonry a few years before now began to institute inquiries as to why their predictions had failed. A few of the "old-timers" came back and resumed the harness, but the control and direction had passed into new hands and the set purpose of these companions was to demonstrate that the Cryptic Rite possessed within itself the elements of stability, permanency and strength.

The Ritual of the R. & S. M. degrees, as revised and corrected at the assembly of the year preceding was formally adopted, and declared to be the standard for the jurisdiction, while the ritual of the Super-Excellent Master's degree, "as the same has been and is conferred by M. I. Comp. Bowditch," was recommended as a proper formula to be followed.

The main feature of historic importance at this assembly was the action had with respect to the then hostile attitude and utterances of the General Grand Council. One of the earliest acts of that body was to brand as spurious and clandestine the work of the chapter councils. By a resolution it had said:

"That all Royal Arch Masons who have received the degrees of Royal and Select Master by the authority, directly or indirectly, of Chapters or Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons shall be and are regarded as clandes-

tinely made Royal and Select Masters, who cannot, in any manner, be recognized or admitted into any lawful Council of Royal and Select Masters."

While an edict of the General Grand Master had stated:

"The General Grand Council has determined that none can be recognized as Royal and Select Masters who are not made in a regular council; an appeal has been made, on the score of Masonic courtesy, for the recognition of those made in Chapters, but they can no more be recognized than Royal Arch Masons, made in a Masters' Lodge, can be. It is settled, so that it is not even a matter for discussion, that the General Grand Council and its constituents cannot now or hereafter recognize as regular Royal and Select Masters any of those made under the 'Mississippi plan'; it is a matter of principle, and not a question of courtesy."

The effect of this edict in jurisdictions which, like Illinois, had but lately discontinued the merger experiment, was extremely pernicious, and many persons greeted in chapter councils were thereby deterred from affiliating or giving to cryptic matters any further attention. As all of the work of the chapter councils of this State was done by the express authority of Grand Council and in strict conformity to its rituals, the action of the G. G. C. in arbitrarily declaring this work irregular was resented as an invasion of the sovereign prerogatives and attributes of Grand Council. The matter was presented to Grand Council by the Grand Master (Bowditch), with a recommendation that the Grand Council take the initiative in the formation of an association among the independent Grand Councils for the resistance of the encroachments of the G. G. C. and the defense of Grand Council sovereignty. The question was submitted to a committee which reported back a "declaration and protest," which on motion was adopted, and the committee instructed to embody same in a circular to be transmitted to all of the Grand Councils of the United States. Whatever may be thought of the action of Grand Council in this respect, it certainly had one good result: It opened the eyes of the G. G. C. constituents and induced a wholesome respect for the Grand Council of Illinois; for at the next succeeding triennial assembly the G. G. C. repealed the obnoxious measures and left the status of R. and S. Masters to be determined by the Grand Councils of the States.

Nathaniel Bowditch was re-elected M. I. Grand Master.

1888.

At the assembly of 1888 the address of the Grand Master disclosed "a healthy, hopeful condition prevailing in the jurisdiction." As "an additional laborer to strengthen and uphold the hands of the Grand Master," that functionary was requested to appoint some qualified companion as Grand Lecturer. As Comp. Bowditch retired from the East at this session the appointment fell upon him and the precedent thus established has ever since been continued.

At this session was also inaugurated the practice of presenting to the retiring Grand Master a jewel indicative of past rank, a practice which Grand Council finances did not permit to become permanently established until several years afterward.

Geo. M. Moulton was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1889.

The assembly of 1889 was uneventful. The reports showed, however, that the Cryptic Rite was stronger in Illinois than ever before—a condition that had resulted mainly from the intelligent, well-directed and persistent efforts of the companions who had controlled its councils and guided its energies since the resumption.

Wm. K. Forsyth was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1890.

The year 1890 offers nothing for special historic mention. The reports from the constituent councils exhibit a gratifying increase in membership. The “dead wood” was cleaned out by the forfeiture and surrender of a number of charters of “dormant” councils, and several new organizations were added to the roll.

A new standing committee under the name “Committee on the Condition of the Rite” was created. The usefulness of this committee, while doubted at the time, has since been abundantly demonstrated.

Geo. W. Warvelle was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1891.

The principal event of the year 1891 was the inauguration of the mass conventions which have since proved so popular as well as beneficial. The initial convention was held at Decatur, on September 15th, of this year, and was in all essential particulars a brilliant success. The occasion brought together a large number of earnest and enthusiastic workers from all parts of the jurisdiction, and the time was profitably spent in discussions of economic questions, the exemplification of the ritual and instruction in matters concerning which the manual furnishes no information. The objects and purposes of the convention commended themselves to Grand Council, and the incoming Grand Master was authorized to establish a convention of like character at such time and place as he might determine. The practice has been continued by succeeding Grand Masters and has now come to be regarded as one of the established customs of the jurisdiction.

The subject of a union with General Grand Council came before the session on the report of a special committee raised to consider the question, and for the third time in its history Grand Council placed upon record its disinclination to engage in “entangling alliances” of this character.

Samuel J. Le Fevre was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1892.

The session of 1892 demonstrated that the Rite was still making substantial progress. Grand Council defined and established a jewel for its Past Grand Masters, and since then has followed the custom of presenting to each retiring officer a testimonial of this character.

Marshall U. Trimble was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1893.

During 1893 the condition of the councils was that of continued improvement. Not only were there a number of new councils instituted, but the returns to the annual assembly indicated greater activity than formerly in many of the old councils. At the time of the “resumption” the minimum



CHARLES W. MATHENY.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1859.

fee was fixed at the low price of seven dollars. The experience of the succeeding years showed that this was not only inadequate but unnecessarily low, and at this session the minimum fee was raised to ten dollars.

F. C. Winslow was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1894.

Notwithstanding the general financial depression which marked the year 1894, the Rite in Illinois exhibited a healthy growth. The treasury now showed annual balances larger than at any time in the history of Grand Council, and for the first time in many years a "per-diem" was paid to its committees and representatives. This feature has been continued ever since, and, is, perhaps, the best commentary that can be offered upon the general health of the institution.

A. M. Werner was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1895.

The favorable conditions of the years immediately preceding continued to augment. Four new councils were added to the roll and substantial gains in membership were shown.

M. M. Lord was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1896.

Like its predecessor the year 1896 continued to show substantial increase in numbers and wealth, although the then prevalent "hard times" was not without an influence on our growth and prosperity. The proceedings of the annual assembly were routine, but all the reports were hopeful and reassuring.

Geo. M. Gross was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1897.

The historian finds nothing of special moment to be noted for this year. The returns show continued activity but no gains. The treasury balance was gratifying. A revised Constitution was adopted and at this writing the same is our organic law.

S. O. Spring was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1898.

Like its predecessor this year seems to have been devoid of any special matters calling for notice. Grand Council seemed to have settled down into a well-fitting groove in which it moved without jar or friction. The returns show slight gains.

For some years prior thereto the officers and agents of the General Grand Council had been making strenuous efforts to induce Illinois to submit to the domination of that body, and the principal incident of this session was a recommendation by the Grand Master (Comp. Spring) "that this Grand Council, by resolution, ratify the Constitution of the General Grand Council, with the intention to become a constituent thereof." The Committee on Address approved the recommendation, but on motion of Comp. Pearson it was

Voted, That so much of the above report as refers to union with the General Grand Council be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence with

instructions to present a report at the next annual assembly and that said report be printed in advance for the information of all concerned.

Wm. L. Milligan was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1899.

This year was apparently a prosperous one. Two new Councils were instituted and the returns show decided gains.

The interest of the session centers on the matter of union with General Grand Council. The Committee on Jurisprudence, to which the recommendation for such union had been referred, presented a divided report. The main report consisted only of a statement of such facts as the committee had been able to gather, which were presented for the information of Grand Council without recommendation. The majority of the committee presented a supplemental report, urging Grand Council to unite with the General Grand, and to procure an expression upon the subject, offered the following resolution:

"Resolved, That this Grand Council accept the invitation of the General Grand Council to unite with them and become a constituent thereof."

Both reports were received, and after debate the resolution offered by the majority of the committee was put to vote and declared lost.

This was the fourth time in the history of Grand Council that it had placed the seal of disapproval on the ideas involved in the formation and maintenance of a General Grand Council.

F. E. Hoberg was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1900.

The principal item of interest at the assembly of this year was the formal adoption of the revised ritual of the R. M. degree and the promulgation of the work known as "A Commentary on the Vedic Hymns." This is the joint product of the most accomplished ritualists of the jurisdiction and represents several years of careful preparation. That it marks a long step in advance of previous compilations is admitted by all who are conversant with it, while visitors from other jurisdictions who have witnessed it are unstinted in their praise.

For many years Grand Council has followed Grand Chapter, holding its annual meetings at the same time and place. The practice originated through convenience and was continued from necessity. But the marked influence exerted on the local councils by the holding of mass conventions had led many to believe that the best interests of the Rite would be subserved by a discontinuance of the practice and by holding the annual assembly at a different place each year. Wherefore Comp. Lord offered the following:

WHEREAS, It is conducive to the best interests of this Grand Council that its annual sessions be held at different places in the jurisdiction, in different years. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare and submit to the next annual assembly of this Grand Council such changes in our Constitution and Laws as will enable the Grand Council to select its place of meeting each year, and to suggest such legislation as may be necessary to carry the intent of this resolution into effect.

The attention of Grand Council was directed to the near approach of the semi-centennial, and a Committee was appointed to arrange for that event.

The Grand Master was authorized to procure a "suitable" jewel of office to be worn by him during his term as presiding officer. This authorization resulted in the jewel now worn.

John B. Fithian was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1901.

The annual assembly of 1901 was the forty-ninth according to the records; but whether it shall be taken to indicate the forty-ninth year of the existence of Grand Council is another matter. As we have seen the initial measures for the organization of Grand Council were instituted in 1853, but, owing to a defect in one of the Councils participating in the convention called for such purpose, the plan was not completed until March, 1854. This latter year has generally been taken as the date of organization. Yet, as we have also seen, the primary organization of 1853 was never wholly abandoned and the proceedings of 1854 were simply confirmatory, all of the "elections, resolutions, orders and proceedings" of the assembly, 1853, were adopted, ratified and "in all respects legalized." For this reason the fathers have always contended that the 29th day of September, 1853, marks the birth of Grand Council, and its annual sessions are held to number from that time. As a necessary consequence Grand Council will have completed its full fiftieth year on September 29, 1903, or about one month prior to the annual session of that year. Therefore, while not fifty years of age at the annual assembly of 1902, it will yet be in its fiftieth year of organized existence, and, for all practical purposes, this will do for a semi-centennial celebration.

The reports and returns to this session showed that the Rite had reached a point of prosperity never before attained and all of the indications were favorable for a continuance of the conditions which produced same.

At this point we may profitably make some comparisons and from them draw some pleasing conclusions. At the first assemblies of Grand Council at Jacksonville in 1853-4, three Councils were represented, all, in fact, that there were in the State. At the assembly of 1901 the representatives of forty-three Councils were reported present by the Committee on Credentials. At the date of organization the combined membership of the three original Councils was only fifty-two, and the largest Council in the jurisdiction (Illinois, No. 1, of Knoxville) returned only twenty-eight members. At the session of 1901 the returns show that the aggregate membership of the fifty-seven Councils of the State was 3,117. The largest Council of the jurisdiction (Palestine, No. 66, of Chicago) returned a total of 288 members, or more than five times as many as the three original Councils combined.

No financial statements appear in the proceedings until the year 1855, when it would seem that the income for the year was \$106.50, and that after the payment of orders there was a balance in the treasury of \$101.13. In 1901 the income for the year was \$952.25, while the treasury balance was \$1,457.51. It is true these figures sink into insignificance when compared with

the income and assets of some of the other bodies, yet they are of far more than ordinary interest when read in the light of past events.

At the assembly of 1900 a resolution was offered looking toward a change in the time and place of meeting. It was felt by many that much benefit would result if Grand Council should cease to be a satellite of Grand Chapter, and that the stimulating effect upon the local Councils if a different meeting place were selected each year would have a strong tendency to augment the ranks. But the Committee to which the matter was referred reported back;

"That in view of present conditions, it would be unwise to hold the annual assembly at any other time or place than that fixed for Grand Chapter. Wherefore, your Committee recommends that no further action on said resolution be taken at this time and that the matter of changes in our laws to meet the requirements of said resolution be indefinitely postponed."

And Grand Council concurred. The movement, however, is only held in abeyance, and it is hoped that in the not far distant future the project may be realized.

The amended ritual of the S. M. degree was presented and approved and declared to be the standard of the jurisdiction.

The assembly of 1902 was ordered observed as the semi-centennial of the institution of Grand Council, and the event directed to be commemorated by a souvenir volume.

W. B. Carlock was elected M. I. Grand Master.

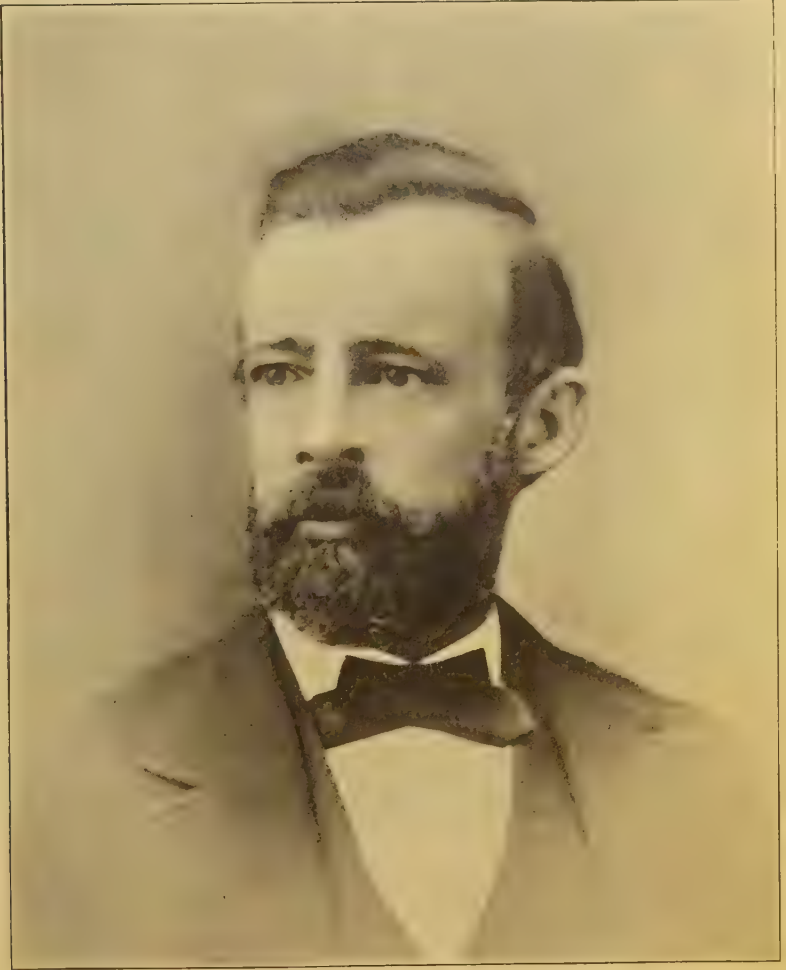
* * *

Of the men who participated in the original convention of 1853, it would seem that not one is now (1902) alive. Of those who participated in the second convention of 1854, the sole survivor is Charles Fisher, of Springfield. Of the forty-one Companions who have presided over Grand Council during the first fifty years of its existence only twenty-two are now living.

* * *

As a rule Grand Council has changed its presiding officer every year, following in this respect the examples set by most of the other Grand bodies. Where this rule has been departed from it has been to secure the services of some zealous brother during a period of depression or of peril. This was noticeably the case after the resumption when Companions Huston and Bowditch were each re-elected to a second term. Of the men who have occupied the East, taken as a whole, Grand Council may well feel proud, for with few exceptions they have been Masons of eminence and men of high social standing in the community.

The first Grand Recorder was Comp. Harman G. Reynolds, who was present and assisted in the organization. Comp. Reynolds continued to perform the duties of the office until 1868, when, by reason of his elevation to the dignity of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, he resigned the position and his mantle fell upon his son, John C. Reynolds. The latter was Recorder for the years 1868-9-70, or three years in all. He was not present at the assembly of 1871, nor does he ever seem to have appeared in Grand Council after the year 1870. At the assembly of 1871 Comp. James H. Miles was elected Recorder, and by successive re-elections continued to occupy the office until



GEORGE W. DEERING.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1860.

1877, when he was succeeded by the present incumbent, Comp. Gil. W. Barnard. Thus, it will be seen, in the half century of life Grand Council has had but four recording officers. Indeed it may with propriety be said to have had but three, as Comp. John C. Reynolds was practically but a proxy for his father.

The first Treasurer was Comp. William McMurtry, who also served in the same capacity during the early years of Grand Lodge. Comp. McMurtry was Treasurer until 1862, when he was succeeded by James R. Mack. In 1864 Comp. Mack was succeeded by Comp. Charles Fisher, who continued to carry the purse until 1888, when he resigned, and Comp. John C. Smith, the present efficient Treasurer, was elected.

At the organization the venerable Levi Lusk was elected Grand Chaplain, and this office he continued to occupy until 1869, with the exception of one year (1861), when Wm. Lavelly officiated. In 1870 Comp. David B. Bunn was elected, and in 1871 Comp. Lusk was reinstated. In 1872 Comp. Henry G. Perry was elected, and by successive re-elections continued to acceptably perform the duties connected with the office until his death in 1899. At the session of 1899 Comp. R. L. Leonard filled the chair and since that time it has been occupied by Comp. Henry R. Hopkins.

* * *

At the reorganization meeting in March, 1854, the Grand Puissant was authorized to procure a seal for the use of Grand Council, and at the "Grand Convocation" in September of the same year Comp. Hibbard reported that he had performed that duty. No instructions seem to have been given to the Grand Puissant with respect to the device to be employed, nor does Grand Council seem to have taken any action on the report further than to audit and pay the bill incurred in procuring the seal. We may reasonably infer, therefore, that the seal of the Grand Council, like that of most of the Masonic bodies of the State, represents the personal ideas of the person procuring same, and that to the good taste and judgment of Comp. James H. Hibbard are we indebted for the present die.

The device upon the seal, the trowel enclosed within the equilateral triangle, is the ancient jewel of a Royal and Select Master, while the inscription beneath it refers to the date of institution, viz.: Year of the Deposit, 2854 (1854 V. E.).

* * *

With the resumption in 1883 was adopted the present system of district supervision. This plan was first suggested by Comp. Wm. A. Levanway, while Grand Puissant, in 1872. No attention was paid to the recommendation at the time, and no action looking toward such a course was had until 1877, when Comp. J. J. French succeeded in securing the passage of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That it is expedient and proper, considering the lack of uniformity, not only in the work and ritual, but also in the necessary paraphernalia for working, to divide the State into nine districts, and to appoint three zealous, efficient and faithful Companions as District Deputies (or Giblymites), of the nine districts (or Arches)—three to each district, whose duties and prerogatives shall be similar to those of Deputies of the Grand Lodge, and they shall co-operate with the Grand Master in the diffusion and exemplify-

ing of the work, and see that each Council has the necessary furniture for working.

Resolved, That to accomplish this end the Grand Master shall have the power to divide the State into nine districts and appoint three Deputies (or Giblymites) to each Arch or District.

But Grand Council, at that time, had fully made up its mind that it was not competent to transact its own business, or for that matter to longer remain in the Masonic field, and the resolutions were received and adopted more as a compliment to Comp. French, who at this session was elected Grand Master, than with any view to their utility or practical use. Before the assembly closed the degrees had been formally transferred to Grand Chapter, and hence there was no longer a necessity or even a right, for the inspection provided for.

When Grand Council resumed its old authority in 1883 one of the first acts of the Grand Master was to divide the State into six districts, which he assigned to the officers of Grand Council for supervision and inspection. The following year his successor (Comp. Curtiss) made a division of five districts. The precedents thus set were followed by Comp. Huston, who divided the jurisdiction into eight districts and assigned suitable persons to the supervision of same. In 1886 Comp. Huston again divided the state into nine "Arches," and this division and nomenclature has been retained by all of his successors.

There is nothing in the laws or regulations of Grand Council which expressly requires this division, nor, if we except the resolution of 1877, any direct authority for same; but the precedent set by former Grand Masters, as well as the practical benefits resulting from the practice, has seemed sufficient to warrant its continuance, and the districting of the jurisdiction by the incoming Grand Master now follows as a matter of course.

* * *

Unlike the Lodge and Chapter, there are no long standing regulations of a uniform character with respect to official jewels, and as a consequence there is considerable dissimilarity in many jurisdictions. When Mackey prepared his manual he embodied what seemed to be the prevailing usage in a majority of the States, and his suggestions have since been generally adopted. But neither Cross, Mackey, Chase, nor any other writer, ever seem to have made any prescription or definition of a jewel of past rank. In this jurisdiction the want of such a decoration for many years was not seriously felt, for the revenues of Grand Council had always been so meager that no testimonials could be given to its retiring officers. But when the quickening influences of the "resumption" commenced to show a treasury balance it was deemed eminently proper that the Grand Masters, whose labors had contributed to this end, should be suitably recognized, and the first person to be honored by the decoration of past rank was Comp. Nathaniel Bowditch.

No formal action was taken with respect to a design until the assembly of 1892, when the Committee on Condition of the Rite reported that, after diligent search, they were unable to find that Grand Council had ever made any official definition of a Past Grand Master's jewel, and to supply such deficiency they recommended the following:

The official jewel of a Past Grand Master of this Grand Council shall consist of a representation of nine arches in perspective, covering a "mosaic pavement" of alternate black and white squares. In the inmost recess is suspended a triangular plate having engraved thereon the sacred yod. On the keystone of the first arch is engraved a trowel. The whole design to be suspended or enclosed within a circlet having incrustated upon its outer surface a wreath of laurel and upon its upper part the word "Illinois." The circlet to be suspended by a grosgrained ribbon of royal purple fastened to a horizontal bar and pin. On the outer surface of bar three triangles with a dot in each angle, representing the illumination of the S. V. The jewel to be of gold with appropriate enamels, and all substantially as set forth in the design herewith submitted and made a part of this report. No other ornamentation of any kind shall be permitted, nor shall said jewel be set with any precious stones, and any Companion entitled of right to wear this decoration who shall make any variation in said design, or procure any ornamentation other than as above set forth, shall thereby forfeit his right to wear such jewel at any of the sessions of this Grand Council or in any of the Councils of its obedience.

The report was received and the recommendations formally adopted. The jewel thus adopted is as beautiful in its composition as it is significant in symbolic meaning, and has since received the formal approval and adoption of several other jurisdictions.

* * *

The committees of Grand Council are much the same as those of Grand Chapter. At the assembly of 1857 the need of a correspondence committee seems to have been felt for the first time, and on motion of the Grand Recorder (Comp. Reynolds) it was

Resolved, That a Committee on Foreign Correspondence be appointed to report at this session.

And thereupon Comps. Reynolds, Lusk and Hibbard were appointed said committee. The committee then presented its report, which was read and adopted. The Companions evidently were so much pleased with the report that it was deemed proper to continue the practice for, at the same session, the following was adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee on Foreign Correspondence be appointed for the year at each annual Grand Convocation.

And thus was inaugurated a practice which has ever since been continued.

The early committees, as was the custom at that time, always consisted of three persons, but the reports seem to have been prepared by Comp. H. G. Reynolds, then and for a number of years succeeding the Grand Recorder. At the assembly of 1859 it was

Resolved, That the Committee on *Foreign Correspondence* be hereafter denominated the Committee on *Masonic Correspondence*.

This seems to have been one of the vagaries of Comp. Reynolds, and while he remained on the tripod this was the name by which the report of the committee was entitled.

Comp. Reynolds seems to have prepared the reports until the year 1868, at which time he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Apparently he did not believe that it comported with the dignity of his office as Grand Master to act as the Secretary of other Masonic bodies, for he resigned his

position as Grand Recorder and was succeeded by his son John C. Reynolds. But this change was one of name only, for it seems he still continued to perform the Recorder's duties, and while the reports for 1868-9 are ostensibly the work of the son, being signed with his name, they yet unmistakably bear the impress of the father in their general characteristics and literary style. The record of 1870 says that John C. Reynolds presented a report on correspondence which was partially read and ordered printed with the proceedings. But, as this was the year which witnessed the destruction of the Recorder's office at Springfield, together with the records of Grand Council, the report has not been preserved. The restored record published with the proceedings of 1871 does not show it. The year 1870 marked the extinction of Comp. Reynolds' long lease of power and influence in the Masonry of Illinois, and he soon after removed from the State.

The Reynolds were succeeded in 1871 by James H. Miles, but no correspondence report appears for that year. From 1872 to 1876 the reports were prepared by Comp. Miles. In 1877 Grand Council, having concluded that it was about ready to die, seems to have had but a languid interest in what may have been occurring in other parts of the Cryptic world, and no report was prepared. Then followed the merger with its consequences, one of which was that nothing in the line of correspondence seems to have been attempted. This condition prevailed for the five years then next ensuing, or until what is known as the resumption.

When Grand Council resumed its functions in 1883, Comp. T. T. Gurney was on the tripod, and so continued until 1885, when, owing to the illness of that distinguished Companion, no report seems to have been made. With the assembly of 1886 Comp. L. R. Jerome assumed the duties of reviewer, and faithfully continued in the discharge of same until his death in 1891. Upon the decease of Comp. Jerome the pen which he had wielded was given to the writer of this sketch, by whom it has since been held.

* * *

The Cryptic Masons of Illinois, whatever else may be said of them, have displayed commendable zeal in their efforts to uplift what had come to be considered an insignificant and unimportant branch of the Masonic economy. In the accomplishment of this result, and we may fairly say that it has been accomplished, a number of factors have entered, but among the most useful and efficient we may class the occasional gatherings known as "Mass Conventions." These have been denounced in some quarters as an invasion of the prerogatives of Grand Council, and ridiculed in others as an "Illinois fad," but, as a general proposition they have been favorably commented upon by the reviewers and others, and recommended for imitation. It is impossible to adequately estimate the good effect they have had upon the Rite in this jurisdiction and we may safely affirm that they will continue to be called in the future as they have been in the past.

The first convention was held at Decatur during the year 1892, and under the direction of Comp. Warvelle, at that time Grand Master. Since then, under successive Grand Masters, seven very profitable meetings have been held and the conviction that they constitute a most efficient means for creating and maintaining Cryptic interest is constantly growing and deepening.



CHARLES FISHER.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1861-62.

The measure owes its inception to Comp. A. M. Werner, from whom the first suggestion came. The idea was favorably received by the leaders and the initial meeting in 1892 proved so successful that at the annual session of Grand Council in 1893 the following edict was entered:

It shall lie within the prerogative of the Most Illustrious Grand Master to assemble the Companions in mass convention for the purpose of instruction or the discussion of economic questions whenever, in his discretion, such an assembly is desirable or expedient, and whenever formally requested so to do by five or more chartered Councils of this jurisdiction, it shall be his duty to issue a proclamation establishing such a convention at such time and place as shall to him seem best calculated to suit the convenience of the several Councils petitioning; *provided, however*, not more than one such convention shall be held in any one year, and, *provided, further*, that said assemblies or conventions shall possess no legislative powers of any kind.

Under the foregoing authorization all of the succeeding conventions have been held. Much of the progress of recent years must be attributed to these conventions, and, notwithstanding the ominous predictions of some of the prophets, the sovereignty of Grand Council has not been impaired, neither has the government of the Rite degenerated into the capricious lawlessness of a democratic mob. The edict, having been found beneficial in practice, was afterward incorporated in the constitution of 1897 and now forms a part of the organic law.

* * *

The first meeting of Grand Council was called a "convocation," and this term continued to be employed as a designation of the annual sessions until the year 1866, when the present name of "assembly" was adopted.

The first constitution in 1853 was very inartificially framed, and did not, in terms, declare the official name of the body. The constitution commenced as follows: "There shall be a Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the State of Illinois, which shall be held as hereinafter directed and shall consist of," etc. Later revisions have corrected this defect, but the Rite in Illinois, as elsewhere, is known only by the names of its degrees.

For a number of years, however, the term "Cryptic Rite" has been employed as a distinguishing name for the series of degrees controlled by the Council, and the name "Cryptic Masons" has a number of times been suggested as a proper appellation for those who have received such degrees. It is contended in support of this suggestion that the title "Royal and Select Master" is inexpressive of Masonic character and has been retained only by reason of the strong conservative spirit which pervades all branches of Masonry and opposes all measures of an innovatory character. It cannot be denied that the appellation, in both cases, is highly euphonious and possesses the merit of brevity as compared with the present clumsy official title. The use of these terms is sanctioned by the best Masonic writers and the craft have taken kindly to them. At this writing no Grand Council has ventured to discard the old name, although in Connecticut an attempt seems to have been made with this end in view. In Illinois the subject has several times been broached and a sentiment favorable to the change seems to prevail.

At the second Mass Convention, held at Urbana in 1892, after a very full and free discussion, it was

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the Grand Council the pro-

priety of changing its official name so that it shall read "Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois."

At the ensuing annual assembly in 1892 the matter was presented to Grand Council upon the motion of Comp. F. C. Winslow, who offered the following amendment to the constitution:

That this body be henceforth known as the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois.

The proposed amendment was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which reported back as follows:

Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the resolution offered by Ill. Comp. F. C. Winslow, respectfully report, that the necessary information upon which an intelligent report can be based is not at hand, and that it therefore recommends that the further consideration of this resolution be postponed until the next Annual Assembly.

It does not seem, however, that the question has been further considered in Grand Council.

* * *

At the annual assembly of 1900 there was presented and decided the much-mooted question of the right of the Council to employ the esotery of the lodge. The matter came up in the form of a resolution, presented by Comp. W. B. Grimes, in the following words:

Resolved, That the Subordinate Councils of this Grand Jurisdiction be authorized to omit all signs in opening or closing on either degree, in the Council, except the signs pertaining to the degree in which the Council is being opened or closed.

After a full discussion the resolution was put upon its passage and defeated. In taking this action Grand Council has simply followed the precedent set by Grand Chapter. Some years before this the same question had been warmly debated in Grand Chapter, which finally decided that the relationship of the lodge and chapter was so intimate that to exclude the traditions and esotery of the lodge would be, in effect, to wipe out the Capitular system in Illinois and cut Grand Chapter off from the rest of the Capitular world.

The sentiment which the foregoing resolution represents was, at one time, much cultivated in Illinois. It grew out of the wholly erroneous idea that "pure Masonry" was confined to the three symbolic degrees, and that the bodies which claimed to confer higher degrees, like the chapter and council, were not "Masonic bodies," but simply "bodies of Masons," and that they were not entitled to claim Masonic character. But the old race of "purists" has pretty well died out, and, while a few feeble imitators occasionally voice a protest, the sentiment may be considered dead in this jurisdiction.

This notion of "purity" is a comparatively late English idea, and was formulated at the union of the rival English Grand Lodges in 1813. But even then it was distinctly qualified by an inclusion of the Royal Arch as a part of the aforesaid three degrees, and, as the Cryptic degrees are but parts of the Royal Arch, they too must fall within the lines of the inclusion.

It does not seem that before the beginning of the last century this doctrine of purity had an existence, nor do we commence to hear of it in this

country until after the declaration of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813. From that time until the present it has constituted a hobby for certain narrow-viewed brethren, and, as is usual with this class, they have stripped it of the qualification placed upon it by the English Masons. The difficulty with the proposition, as we usually meet it, to-wit: "That true and only Freemasonry is the three symbolic degrees," lies in the fact that ancient Freemasonry only consisted of *one* degree, and that degree, to employ an Irish bull, was not a degree at all. Under the old system, admission to the society involved everything that pertained to it. Degrees came later. Now if truth and purity are confined to three degrees, how about the craft that possessed no degrees, or, at best, only one?

As a matter of historic fact the fraternity has always had craft legends. It had these before it had degrees, and before the fertile brains of ritual compilers had commenced to work. In time, through a curious process of evolution, these legends expanded and separated, and the resultant was what we now call degrees. At first (*circa* 1724) there were three "parts" or "points." Later (*circa* 1750) there were four, all conferred in the symbolic lodge. The continued expansion of the legends subsequently created more, and now we have nine in our American system. So far as concerns their truth or purity they are all on a par. One is no truer than the others and all are of equal purity. They all grew out of the original craft legends and developed within the bosom of the fraternity. The process of incubation has been constant since 1717 at least, and we may safely assert that the fecund mother which produced the present brood is not yet barren. There are more to come. And those born after will be just as legitimate as those born before.

* * *

The authority for the establishment of Cryptic Masonry in Illinois was derived from Kentucky in 1852-3, and presumably a ritual was procured from the same source about that time. But the Cryptic Rite had been known and practiced in Illinois prior to its introduction from Kentucky, and at the time of the institution of Grand Council there were in the jurisdiction a comparatively large number of Royal and Select Masters who had received their investiture in chapters of Royal Arch Masons. As a consequence there was no settled ritualistic observance. Indeed, at this period, the ritual was in a most chaotic condition, not only in our own State, but throughout the country. Nor does it seem that any very strenuous efforts were made to remedy the evil. The predominating influence of some local leader generally shaped the ritual of a particular council, and this condition of affairs long remained.

In 1855 a committee was appointed in Grand Council to exemplify the work. Just what this "work" was we do not know, but in the archives of the Acacia Library there is an old ritual of Knoxville Council, one of the organizers of Grand Council, and we may safely surmise that it was this form of ritual that first received the sanction of authority. The best features of this ancient ritual are still preserved in the present standard of the Royal Master's degree. At the session of 1857 an effort was made to secure "uniformity of work," and councils were instructed to adopt the lectures taught by the late Comp. William A. Dickey. This, it would seem, was practically the same as the ritual of Knoxville Council, and, therefore, we are enabled to form very fair estimates of what the "Dickey work" actually consisted.

During the years of the Civil War the Council languished, and Cryptic Masonry reached its lowest ebb in this jurisdiction. But with the cessation of hostilities came a renewed interest, and also, apparently, a new work. About this time Comp. H. W. Hubbard became a recognized authority on Masonic lectures. He taught a system known as the "Connecticut work," which, it was claimed, embodied all of the best features of the lectures taught by Barney and Dickey. In 1869 a new ritual was compiled by Comp. Hubbard and adopted as its standard by Grand Council. This year may be taken as the date at which our liturgic development commenced. The Hubbard lectures, with local variations, remained in force until the period of the "merger," when Grand Chapter promulgated a ritual based to some extent upon the Hubbard lectures, but more largely upon a new set known as "convention work," together with embellishments suggested by Comp. John O'Neill and others. This was the system employed during all of the time that Grand Chapter continued to control the dissemination of the degrees, and for a few years after the "resumption."

During the year 1872 a National Convention of Royal and Select Masters was held at the City of New York. The convention was called for advisory action with reference to the names, numbers and order of degrees, the nomenclature of bodies and officers, and uniformity of ritual. One of the results of its labors was the creation of a new set of lectures, popularly known as "Convention work." These lectures were used by Grand Chapter, and after Grand Council had resumed its functions in 1883 the ritual promulgated by Grand Chapter was reaffirmed and adopted as the standard of the jurisdiction. At the session of 1886 a revised ritual, based upon the convention work as modified by the ritual of Ohio, was adopted. The compilation was prepared by Comp. H. E. Huston. In it many of the old and quaint phrasings of former lectures were omitted, upon the theory that the conferring of degrees is a sort of business, and that good business methods always looked to the largest returns from the least expenditure of labor. This mistaken policy has, to some extent, been continued in all subsequent revisions.

In 1891 there was held a Mass Convention, which was attended by the most expert ritualists of the jurisdiction. In the exemplifications held at this and subsequent conventions many ideas were advanced that found favor with the delegates. From time to time experimental expositions were presented until finally, as the result of about ten years of preparatory work, a revised ritual was presented to the Annual Assembly of 1900 and adopted. The year following the new ritual, with a few slight changes, was promulgated, meeting with an enthusiastic reception on the part of the craft. This system of lectures, known as a "Commentary on the Vedic Hymns," is now the standard of the jurisdiction.

It will be seen that Illinois has had a number of ritualistic revisions, but the essentials remain now as they always have been. Our present lectures, in some respect, are a return to early ideas as shown by the old ritual of Knoxville Council, as well as the Hubbard lectures. In other respects they contain a little that may properly be called new, but nothing that is not drawn from the degrees themselves.

In all this we have but kept pace with the progressive spirit of the age. The past ten years have witnessed, in many jurisdictions, a strong tendency



ORLIN H. MINER.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1863.

toward ritualistic revision. This includes not only a re-phrasing of accepted readings, but also such alterations, changes and additions as shall give a more systematic cast to the ceremonies and bring out the latent beauties and undeveloped truths. In a very conservative way this matter of revision has been carried on with decidedly beneficial results. The progressive element call this process "elaboration;" the non-progressive stigmatize it as "tinkering," and pour upon the heads of the alleged "tinkers" the vials of their untempered wrath.

And yet the "tinkers" represent the class that has made Masonry what it is to-day; that has given to it the world-wide fame and eminent prestige it now enjoys. And the aforesaid "tinkers" are sustained in their position by the highest precedent. Masonry is and always has been progressive, and the compilations of its rituals furnish no exception to the rule. For the benefit of those who hold to the theory of sacred inviolability of the rituals, let us glance at the history of ceremonial elaboration in the Lodge. Fortunately we have a number of authentic rituals which antedate the revival of 1717. The student knows what they are and how little they resemble the esoteric ceremonies of to-day. About 1720 Anderson revised these ancient rituals, discarding much of the old and introducing much that was absolutely new. In 1731 Anderson's lectures were entirely remodeled by Martin Clare. About 1740 Clare's lectures were "improved" and in some respects superseded by the arrangement of Manningham. In 1760 Thomas Dunkerly introduced a new system, which took the place of Manningham's. In a very few years more Hutchinson's revision appeared, and this in turn was replaced in 1772-5 by an entirely new arrangement devised by Preston. This was the system which largely prevailed in this country when the American Grand Lodges became independent, but the Prestonian lectures have since been discarded in England to make room for a system arranged by Hemming. After the independence of American Grand Lodges the Prestonian lectures were recast by Webb, the process covering a period of years, ending, say, about 1816, and the Webb-Preston lectures were then modified by Cross, and those who came after him. With the "dormancy" which attended the anti-Masonic excitement of 1826-35 there was a large loss in the matter of esoteric work. To remedy this loss and to produce a uniformity of work throughout the Union, a convention of expert ritualists was held at Baltimore in 1843, and the result was a re-arrangement of the lectures which subsequently obtained official endorsement in this and adjoining States. These lectures were taught in this jurisdiction by John Barney, Carding Jackson and William A. Dickey, and are generally known as the "Barney Lectures." In 1869 the Barney lectures were "revised" by Harman G. Reynolds and others, and such revision now forms the "standard work" of the Grand Lodge.

Thus it will be seen that "ritual tinkering" is by no means a modern fad, neither is it confined to the Cryptic Rite. The writer opposes innovation quite as much as the most conservative, but he does not regard the extension of our ancient legends or the elaboration of our primitive symbolism as an innovatory process. Let us stand on the old ways and make progression, but do not permit the "conservative element" to compel us to stand on the old ways and stagnate.

*

*

*

As will be seen by reference to the chronological review, the Grand Council of Illinois has always opposed the formation of a general or central governing body, or any other form of organization that would in any way involve the surrender of any of its sovereign prerogatives. The project had often been mooted, but it was not until 1880 that a General Grand Council was actually formed. At this time the degrees in Illinois were under the protectorate of Grand Chapter. Two years later Grand Council resumed control, but the hostile attitude of the new General Grand Council precluded a union even had the inclination been present. When the General Grand finally receded from its first position the old sentiment had become so strong that all overtures were rejected and this policy has since been maintained.

The General Grand Council is a product of very recent years, and none of the arguments which support either the right of existence or claim of fealty in the case of the General Grand Chapter are applicable. Its history, as well as the antecedent circumstances, may be briefly summarized as follows:

It is beyond question that the original forms of the Cryptic degrees were not preserved as they came from the hands of their founders, and that in their dissemination by the self-appointed chiefs who controlled them they soon assumed a bewildering variety of phases in the method of organization, order of arrangement and ritualistic expression. As time wore on these features became more pronounced. In some jurisdictions the scale was increased by adding the Super-Excellent degree; in some it was expressly rejected, and in others it was unknown. There was no uniformity in the order of conferring the two recognized degrees. In some States the Select was the first of the series, in others the last, and while the general principles which give distinctive character to the Rite were probably the same in all jurisdictions, yet in many there was a commingling of legend and incident. The salient features of one degree were often transferred to the other, and that which to us would seem to be inseparably connected with the Select was not infrequently to be found in the Royal degree and *vice versa*. In the names, titles and number of the officers there was also a great diversity, while in the smaller details the same conditions prevailed in a still more aggravated form. Added to all this was the unsettled and vexed question of the right of capitular domination, which ever since the organization of the first Councils had continued to assert itself. Out of these facts grew a series of popular assemblies that are now known as "National Conventions."

It was generally conceded that the condition of affairs as just related called for some action calculated to secure substantial uniformity in the number, arrangement and ritual of the degrees, as well as in the organization of the bodies, both grand and constituent; and as early as 1848 Comp. A. G. Mackey proposed that a convention be held to make an amicable settlement of the disputed questions involved in the conflict of jurisdiction between Councils and Chapters and to determine upon a uniform method of conferring the degrees. An attempt was made to have this convention held at Boston in 1850 during the convocation of the General Grand Chapter; but it does not appear that sufficient interest in the subject could be created at that time to insure an attendance, and no call was issued. With this exception, however, no one seemed prepared with a remedy, and so matters remained until 1867. At this time measures were initiated looking toward a solution of the difficulty by a

suggestion that at the triennial session of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, to be held in the City of St. Louis the following year, the Grand Councils should insure the attendance of some of their best workmen for mutual consultation and interchange of ideas.

The project was favorably received and the Grand Council of Maine formally crystallized the suggestion by making it a resolution addressed to the other Grand Councils of the country. It is further worthy of note in this connection that the resolution, in express and unmistakable terms, disclaimed "any intention or desire of forming, or seeking to form, a General Grand Council of the United States," yet this was the germ from whence the present General Grand Council was evolved. But nothing practical came of this resolution, as the proposed convention did not materialize and the "best workmen," if present at St. Louis, probably found more congenial employment in other fields of labor. The project was kept alive, however, and four years later (1872), through the joint efforts of the Grand Councils of Maine and Massachusetts, a convention was held at the City of New York at which fourteen Grand Jurisdictions were represented, Illinois (unofficially) among the number. The business of this convention was devoted mainly to a revision of nomenclature and the arrangement and order of the degrees. The results were highly gratifying to all concerned, but owing to differences of opinion in reference to some of the matters presented, to settle which would require more time than the convention could command, it was deemed advisable to remit same to a committee upon which members of Grand Councils not represented should also be appointed. This necessarily involved an adjourned session, and so the convention took a recess for one year. The convention met, pursuant to adjournment, at the same place in June, 1873, Illinois being again unofficially represented. But little of a practical nature was accomplished at this meeting, other than to confirm the actions of the year previous, and after the appointment of a committee to memorialize the Grand Encampment on the subject of "prerequisite," the convention again adjourned to meet at New Orleans the next year.

On November 31, 1874, the convention again assembled at New Orleans, but the only question of moment that was presented was the propriety of the immediate organization of a General Grand Body. A committee was appointed to prepare a provisional constitution, which was to be submitted to the Grand Councils for approval, but notwithstanding the committee seems to have reported back such an instrument, no action was taken upon it. Pending the report it was resolved that the "present officers" be continued, and when the constitution should have been ratified by two-thirds of the Grand Councils they were to call a meeting for the organization of the new body. The convention then adjourned to meet at Buffalo three years later. The convention did meet, as per adjournment, August 20, 1877, but the session was devoid of interest. Nothing seems to have been done with respect to the main questions presented to the New Orleans meeting three years previous, and the provisional constitution was not even alluded to. After passing the usual resolution to again memorialize the Grand Encampment, the convention adjourned without day but subject to the call of the President.

There can be no doubt but that, had it not been for a subsequent remarkable convulsion of the Cryptic world, the premonitory symptoms of which

were then visible, this would have been the last session of the convention, and the project of a General Grand Council would never have advanced to any higher stage of development than it assumed at the New Orleans meeting. The practical work of the convention was fully accomplished at its sessions in New York, in 1872-3. These assemblies seem to have been of the highest importance, and were productive of incalculable benefit. In them was done all that was originally contemplated, and to the men who promoted and conducted them the craft are under a lasting debt of gratitude. But all that followed was barren. With no well defined policy, the Convention extended, or attempted to extend, its own existence by adjournments. Its "delegates" were not usually the same at its different sessions, and few, if any, who attended were accredited as such. It succeeded in dragging its slow length over a period of ten years, and finally, by an act, the full legality of which is not without question, culminated in the formation of a General Supervisory Body of doubtful utility and powers. To understand the motives which actuated the founders of the General Grand Council, as well as the incentives to such action, it will be necessary to hastily review the works which were transpiring in the Crypt during the period covered by the Convention's sessions, and particularly of the movement now known in Cryptic history as the "Mississippi plan."

Through a variety of causes, real and fanciful, Cryptic Masonry, for a number of years succeeding the close of the Civil war, was in that condition generally described as "languishing." Having no showy uniforms or military gewgaws to attract the heedless, its growth, as compared with the chivalric orders, was slow; the aspirants for enrollment as imitation soldiers passed it by with scorn, and those who had entered it simply through a desire to possess "high degrees" began to forsake it for its more brilliant rival, then rapidly rising to the flood-tide of its popularity. It had nothing to offer but "Masonry," and that is what a vast multitude of "Masons" have very little use for. Those who remained mistook this process of purification for dissolution, and because they erroneously supposed that our success lay in numerical accessions and our prosperity in treasury balances, they became despondent, and out of their blind despair evolved the Mississippi plan. This consisted simply of a surrender of the degrees to the Royal Arch Chapter, and while the project had often been discussed and, indeed, practically effected in Virginia under a mistake of fact, yet, as Mississippi was the first to adopt it as a measure of expediency, it has generally been alluded to as a line of policy peculiar to that jurisdiction.

The effect of the action of Mississippi was immediately discernible in the other States, and a spirited contest ensued. In many localities the preponderating sentiment favored its adoption, and this led to what is now known as "the Merger."

It is difficult at this time, for those who have entered the S. V. since the abandonment of the "Mississippi plan" to fully comprehend the motives which induced its adoption and even of those of us who were present and participated in the work can find but little justification or excuse for the extraordinary course which was then pursued. The writer speaks now only for Illinois. Whatever conditions may have prevailed elsewhere he does not know, and possibly in other jurisdictions the "merger" may have been more



JOHN L. RAMSEY.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1864.

defensible than with us. But, however this may be, the action of Mississippi seemed to be infectious and was speedily followed in Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wisconsin and our own jurisdiction, while measures looking ultimately to the same end were inaugurated in California and Missouri.

Scarcely any two of the merging jurisdictions adopted in all respects the same procedure, although the ultimate object to be attained was everywhere the same, but, as a general similitude pervaded all of the methods employed, the plan pursued in Illinois, a detailed account of which is furnished in the chronological review, will, perhaps, furnish a fair idea of the salient features of the movement as it existed in other States.

Without questioning the motives of those who advised or aided the consummation of the Mississippi plan, it may nevertheless be said that its influence was pernicious. Its logical effect was the disintegration of the Cryptic system and the reduction of the liturgies of the Council to the position of mere "side degrees" of the Chapter. In this jurisdiction they certainly assumed that position. In many chapters they were never conferred; in others only at infrequent intervals. In some of the "merging" jurisdictions they were almost lost sight of, and had the movement attained such force as to carry all of the States it is fair to presume that, like all other side degrees, they would in time have fallen into complete disuse and finally have been lost. But fortunately the project met with vigorous opposition in many States, which had a reassuring effect upon some of the weaker jurisdictions, while to still further stem the tide a new factor was evolved known as the General Grand Council.

As has been stated, when the Convention which met at Buffalo, in 1877, concluded its apparently purposeless session, it adjourned to meet at the call of the chairman. Very soon thereafter the Grand Council of Mississippi surrendered its degrees and dissolved its organization. Other States rapidly followed the precedent established by Mississippi, while still others held the project under serious consideration. This was the condition of affairs at the beginning of the year 1880, when the Grand Council of Minnesota formally requested the Chairman, Bro. J. H. Drummond, to call a meeting of the Convention. In response thereto, a call was issued for a meeting to be held at Detroit, August 23, 1880, for the purpose of consultation and advisory action, and pursuant to such call, a meeting was held, in which eighteen Grand Councils are said to have been represented. A protest against any usurpation of Cryptic prerogatives by the General Grand Chapter or any of its constituents was adopted, and all persons receiving their degrees under such auspices were declared to be clandestine. The advisability of forming a General Grand Council was then affirmed; a constitution was adopted and provisional officers elected, all to be subject to the approval of and ratification by the Grand Councils of the country, "or of a majority of them." The Convention then adjourned, subject to the call of the Provisional Grand Master. On March 1, 1881, a proclamation was issued by the Provisional Grand Master (Bro. Drummond), reciting a ratification of the Constitution by nine Grand Councils, and declaring the new organization regularly formed and duly existing "as the governing body of the Rite in the United States." Since then it has continued to assert a mild, and, in many respects, innocuous existence. It

meets regularly every three years and elects officers. It also publishes its proceedings, which consist mainly of the record of such elections. While it accomplishes but little in the way of tangible results, it does not seem that it is productive of any very serious harm, and were it not that it assumes to be "the governing body of the Rite in the United States," there would be little room to find any fault with either its organization or methods.

The existence of General Grand bodies, however, has always been a question of doubtful expediency. In their essential features they are in derogation of old laws and usages, while their practical usefulness is certainly not apparent to the casual observer. In the case of the chapter the fact that the general body was the precursor if not the parent of all the State Grand bodies, except Virginia and Pennsylvania, gives to it a certain stability that attaches to many institutions that have outlived their usefulness or outgrown the purpose of their original establishment. But with respect to the General Grand Council no such considerations apply. Its original expressed purpose was only that of a defensive league, and now that the conditions which created it no longer exist it is difficult to discover a good reason for its continuance.

* * *

It is frequently asserted by adherents of the General Grand Council, that the position of the Grand Council of Illinois is illogical and inconsistent, for the reason, that we, as Royal Arch Masons, recognize the General Grand Chapter and render fealty thereto. This matter would not be worth notice were it not that some of our own household affect to see the same inconsistency, and, on several occasions the relative positions of Grand Chapter and General Grand Chapter have been cited as precedents for Grand Council and General Grand Council.

It is indeed true that the Grand Chapter of Illinois is a constituent of the body known as the General Grand Chapter, and that all Royal Arch Masons of its obedience are required, as a condition of exaltation, to vow allegiance thereto. The reason therefor is as follows:

The system of Royal Arch Masonry practiced in Illinois, and in all of the jurisdictions within the General Grand Chapter constituency, is essentially American in ritualistic expression and arrangement of degrees. It is now generally conceded to be the work of Thomas Smith Webb, and to have had its origin about the year 1798. Prior to this time there were but few Chapters, and such as perchance did exist worked under the sanction of a Master's warrant or by self-constituted authority. But the systems of these Chapters were very dissimilar. Some used the Irish ritual—Royal Arch of Dublin—a Ritual very much like our own; some employed the English Royal Arch of Dermott, or other English adaptations. Some conferred only the Royal Arch, others had one or two subsidiary degrees. Out of this chaos Webb compiled a system of his own. The Mark degree was a "modification" of an existing Ritual; the Past was simply an installation service retained because all of the systems agreed upon the fundamental point that the Royal Arch could only be conferred upon one who had "regularly passed the chair;" the Most Excellent seems to have been a pure invention and has no prototype in any of the systems theretofore practiced.

And so a new system was prepared, and that system was given to the

organization which in 1798 was instituted under the name "Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America," and which by 1806 had become the "General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America." The system was then the property of that body and it alone had the right to say how, when, and to whom it should be communicated. It alone had the right to disseminate the system or to prescribe rules for its government. The General Grand Chapter, therefore, is the fountain from whence *all* of the Webb Masonry of the Royal Arch flows, and while, in 1859, the body saw fit to surrender a large measure of its powers, resulting in virtual emasculation, it nevertheless is still the legitimate possessor of the original and ultimate title to the system. In Virginia, Pennsylvania and Texas the Grand Chapters are independent, yet the work of the two former, save as they may have "absorbed" it, is not the Webb system, and while the latter does employ the General Grand Chapter lectures, it does so only upon the same authority as he who, having borrowed my coat now claims it for his own and continues to wear it. Texas was originally a constituent but "drew out." Undoubtedly every Grand Chapter has the inalienable right to withdraw from the General Grand whenever it may desire and refuse longer to recognize its very limited governing authority, but no Grand Chapter has a right to withdraw and take with it the Royal Arch system which is the property of the parent body.

Therefore, the Grand Chapter of Illinois is, and will undoubtedly remain, a constituent of the General Grand Chapter and certainly so long as it continues to use its system it cannot, in common fairness and honesty, do otherwise.

It will readily be seen that none of the considerations above noted apply to the organization known as the General Grand Council. It is not a creator, but is itself a latter day creation, formed twenty-seven years after the organization of the Grand Council of Illinois. Not only is there nothing illogical in refusing to recognize its authority but our course is, and always has been, consistent. We have never had but one policy and that we have always steadily adhered to.

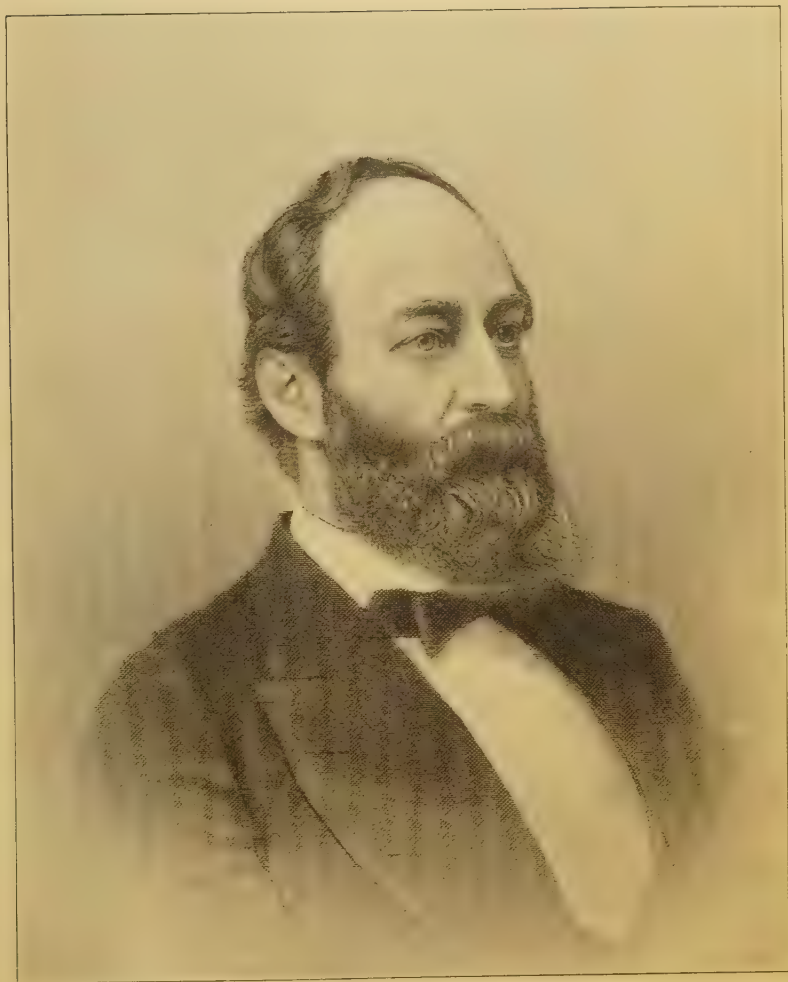
When the Grand Council of Illinois was organized, it adopted, as a fundamental principle of its own existence, the doctrine of sole and absolute sovereignty over all of the affairs of the Rite within the territorial limits of the State of Illinois. This doctrine it has consistently maintained for fifty years. During all of this period, even when its degrees were being conferred by the Royal Arch chapters in the years of the so-called merger, it never for a moment abandoned its claim of sovereignty, but always, at all times and in all places, has held as of right the supreme power. That right it holds and exercises today—the right of absolute sovereignty; the right of declaring law and enforcing obedience to it; the authority which demands allegiance and compels observance of the duties involved therein. These rights and prerogatives it holds in their *entirety*—the only true test of sovereignty. Nor can these rights be divided and parceled out. They are of the very essence of any grand body that claims sovereignty and supreme authority and no body can assign or alienate a single one of its sovereign attributes, or grant a precedence of any kind to a power outside of itself, without committing an act of abdication. It is absurd to say that we are

sovereign if at the same time we owe allegiance and fealty to a superior body. As one distinguished Mason has said, "to surrender a part of sovereign powers destroys the supreme authority in-so-far as the power surrendered is vested in some other organization, and there cannot be a greater and a lesser supreme power in any jurisdiction."

* * *

Since the abandonment of the "merger" craze the Rite in Illinois has enjoyed an era of marked and apparently increasing prosperity. The beauty of its liturgies and the sublimity of its lessons have commended it to all thoughtful Masons, and its place in this jurisdiction, as an exponent of the higher mysteries of the Craft, now seems to be forever assured.

We are stronger now than at any former period of our existence, and are still making a firm and steady advance. The larger part of the old Councils, as they existed prior to the merger, have resumed labor, while many new ones have been constituted. The general outlook is good; not, perhaps, for great numbers or augmented wealth, but for all the essential elements of permanent and useful life. Indeed, we must not look for great numbers in this department of Freemasonry, for the numbers will never come; we have nothing that is attractive to the thoughtless, the heedless or the seeker after show. But with a continuing development of our symbolism and philosophy, an expansion of our undeveloped truths, a widening and deepening of the channels in which they course, and a more thorough and genuine appreciation of our fundamental doctrines, we will draw to us the cultured, the refined, and the intellectual of the craft, and we shall eventually become that which we now profess to be—an assembly of the *select*.



JAMES H. MILES.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1865.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

OF

ANCIENT CRYPTIC WORTHIES.

BY GIL. W. BARNARD.

JAMES H. HIBBARD.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1853-54.



OUR beloved Companion was the only child of R. W. Bro. Elias Hibbard, of Alton, Past Deputy Grand Master, and was born in the State of Mississippi in 1827, but was educated and reared mainly at Upper Alton, in this State, where he received a good education. He died on the 14th of May, 1866, after a short and severe illness, aged 39 years.

For many years he was engaged in the book and paper trade, was several years City Clerk and Alderman, and the head and active member of the Fire Department.

About the year 1852 he married a niece of Judge Bailhache and left her and two children to mourn his untimely death.

The subject of this sketch was initiated in Piasa Lodge, No. 27, June 17, passed July 1, and raised July 22, 1851, and soon after received the Capitular degrees in Alton Chapter, No. 8, and the Council degrees in Springfield Council, No. 2. The Commandery orders were conferred on him in Belvidere Commandery at Alton during the session of the Grand Commandery in that city in 1858 by Grand Commander Blaney.

He served several years in the positions of Senior Deacon, Junior Warden, and Master in Piasa Lodge, in several subordinate capacities in Alton, and as High Priest of both Alton and Franklin Chapters.

He was the first deputy and the second Master of Alton Council, a position which he held at the time of his death.

He also served Belvidere Commandery as Prelate and Commander.

The Grand Lodge elected him Senior Grand Warden in 1854, Deputy in 1855, and Grand Master in 1856; the Grand Chapter elected him Grand Treasurer in 1853, Grand Captain of the Host in 1855, Deputy in 1856, and Grand High Priest in 1857 and 1863.

The Grand Council elected him Grand Puissant upon its organization in 1853 and again in 1854.

In the Grand Commandery he served as Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Generalissimo, and Deputy Grand Commander.

As a nervous, accurate, and willing workman in all degrees and orders of Masonry he had no superiors. In all the grand and subordinate bodies he presided with readiness and skill, while he was equally useful in any and every subordinate position. In all the relations of life our beloved and Most Illustrious Companion was an accommodating, genial, loving husband, father, son, brother, and friend. Very early in life he has left thousands of brethren and companions to mourn his early departure, crowned with nearly every honor in their power to bestow. The lesson is a solemn admonition to every Mason.



James A. Hawley

LEVI LUSK.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1855.



LEVI LUSK was born at New Hartford, in the State of New York, on the 10th of May, 1795, consequently he was over eighty-two years old at the time of his death, July 25, 1877. He died as he had lived, a firm believer in the teachings of the church with which he had been connected for fifty years.

He was initiated in April, 1821, in Mt. Vernon Lodge, No. 14, located at Georgetown, Kentucky, and soon after received the second and third degrees of Masonry. He filled various positions in the Lodge, and soon became proficient as a lecturer and worker in the great cause of Masonry. In 1842 he, with six other brethren, received a dispensation to open a Lodge at Rushville, Illinois, of which he became the first Master. In 1843 he was elected Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and in 1844 Grand Master. In 1845 he was elected Grand Secretary and re-elected in 1846. During his connection with the Grand Lodge, among others, besides those already named, he filled the following positions: Was Grand Lecturer 1843, 1844, 1859 and 1862; was a member of the Committee on Appeals and Grievances in 1843, of Obituaries in 1862, of Jurisprudence from 1857 to 1864, of Foreign Correspondence in 1844, 1846 and 1847, of Library in 1867 and 1868, of Lodges U. D. in 1854, 1856, 1857, 1858 and 1859, on Grand Master's Address in 1851 and 1854. In all these positions he was a zealous worker, and has left the impress of his labors in the records of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

He received the Chapter degrees in Georgetown, Kentucky, and filled many positions in that Chapter before his removal to Illinois. He was also Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky. He also filled the offices of Grand Treasurer and Grand King. After his removal to Illinois, he, with others, organized Rushville Chapter, of which he was High Priest for most of the time since its organization. He was Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Illinois, and one of its original members. Bro. Lusk also received the degrees of Cryptic Masonry, and wrought his regular hours in the secret vault. At the annual Assembly of this Grand Council, 1855, he was elected Grand Master. He also received the Order of the Temple, but does not seem to have made much proficiency in Templar Masonry. Taken as a whole, his Masonic life was full of labor, and in every position he seems to have earned the respect and esteem of his Masonic brethren, and his memory will long be cherished by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, and more especially by the Masonic fraternity, with which he was so long connected.

EDWARD M. M. CLARKE.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1856.



COMPANION CLARKE was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., April 13, 1804, where he resided until 1840, when he came west and for a time resided in Jacksonville and Rushville, finally settling in Lewis-town in 1868, and remained there until his death in 1885. He graduated from Columbia College and entered the profession of the law, which he practiced for many years. January 29, 1829, he was married to Miss Elizabeth K. Kingsbury, with whom he lived until his decease, and who survived him until May, 1900.

His life was quiet for many years and his intercourse with men was characterized by the marked and stately courtesy which belonged to an older generation of gentlemen. He was a communicant of the Episcopal Church for over sixty years, and a devout and reverent Christian.

Of his Masonic record little can be discovered, but he was Master of Nassau Lodge, A. F. & A. M., in Brooklyn, N. Y., during the Morgan excitement, and was an active and efficient officer. He was P. H. P. of Stapleton Chapter, No. 9, Rushville, Illinois, and was elected Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter in 1856, and Grand Master of the Grand Council, R. & S. M., of this State the same year.



DANIEL G. BURR.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1867.

JAMES V. Z. BLANEY.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1857.



HIS distinguished craftsman was born in New Castle, Delaware, May 11, 1820, and died at Chicago, December 11, 1874. In 1856 he was elected Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and in 1857 he was the first Grand Commander of Illinois. The same year he served as Most Ill. Grand Master of the Grand Council, R. & S. M. In 1856 he was admitted to the A. A. S. Rite, and in 1867 he received the 33d degree in that Rite. In 1850 he was elected Deputy Grand High Priest, and in 1851 he was promoted to the highest position in this Grand Chapter.

He received a thorough literary, scientific, and professional education, and in 1843 came to Chicago to engage in the practice of medicine. He at once took a high rank. He was appointed Professor of Chemistry in Rush Medical College in 1844, which position he continued to hold until disease compelled him to abandon all active work. He early became connected with the Masonic order. He was an early member of Oriental Lodge. He filled the offices of Master of the Lodge, High Priest of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Thrice Illustrious of the Council of Royal and Select Masters, Commander of Apollo Commandery of Knights Templar. His Masonic knowledge, both of the Ritual and of the law, was accurate, and for many years, in the York Rite, he was regarded as the chief authority in the Northwest.

An eager desire to know, a passion for scientific truth, quickness of observation, readiness to grasp details, however intricate, rare talent for analysis or synthesis, and with all a most retentive memory, were among the prominent endowments of his gifted mind. But not as the student, the thinker, the man of scientific attainments or professional superiority, was he appreciated by those who knew him best. He was emphatically a great-hearted man, overflowing with charity and goodwill, in most unstinted generosity and hospitality. He was the poor man's friend, the comforter and helper of the suffering and the unfortunate, never turning away or closing his heart against any appeal for aid. It was brotherliness that lent such a personal charm to his presence and gave that refinement and courtesy and grace to his bearing everywhere. He was admired for his mental gifts and acquirements, but he was loved for his goodness.

SYLVESTER STEVENS.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1858.



HE subject of this sketch was for many years very prominent in promoting the work and interests of our Cryptic Rite as he also was in the Craft and Capitular work of the Fraternity.

He first saw Masonic light in Union Lodge No. 40. Danbury, Connecticut, where he was initiated, passed and raised in the early part of the year 1828.

He received the Capitular degrees in the same town in 1830, and after removing to this State he passed the circle of perfection to the R. & S. Masters degrees in Illinois Council No. 1, at Knoxville. His efficiency and zeal in this Rite may be best evidenced by the record that shows him to have been T. I. M. of that Council for twenty-one years. He was a charter member of Canton Chapter No. 68, R. A. M., and its first High Priest, which position he filled for twelve years.

He had affiliated with the Lodge at Knoxville (No. 66) in 1852 and was elected W. M. in 1856, holding that office for six years. In the Grand Lodge of Illinois he was Grand Lecturer for ten years, D. D. Grand Master six years and member of important committees for twenty-two years, having been present at every meeting of that body during his long and active membership therein.

In the Commandery at Muscatine, Iowa, he was admitted to Templar Knighthood, and in Monmouth Consistory, Illinois, he was crowned a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, 32d degree.

At the annual assembly of this Grand Council in 1857 he was elected Grand Thrice Illustrious, and the following year he was elected Grand Master.

Companion Stevens was born at Danbury, Connecticut, in 1804, and died at Knoxville, Illinois, June 15, 1878. He was a physician by profession.

He was well and favorably known to the craft of all degrees in this State as a devoted Mason, an honorable and courteous gentleman and a teacher of Masonic mysteries who had few equals and perhaps no superiors.

"For if he lives—and something says 'tis true—

Somewhere beyond the blue,

Or far, or near,

He hath not quite forgotten—this I know—

His brothers here;

And he would send us greeting, it may be

From o'er the silent sea,

Our hearts to cheer,

Some joyous welcome; perchance would send by thee

The Master's word—

Love sacred key to holy brotherhood."



Geo M. Pearson

CHARLES W. MATHENY.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1859.



As an active, zealous and influential member of our Rite, this Companion sustained an enviable reputation. At the organization of this Grand Council he was a member of Springfield Council, No. 2, and the first appearance of his name on our roster of officers is as Deputy Grand Master, in 1858. The following year he was Grand Master and served one year.

He was at the time of the organization of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Illinois an officer in Springfield Chapter, No. 1, and filled the position of High Priest in that body. He was Grand King in 1850 and Deputy Grand High Priest in 1851.

At the time of his death our Ill. Companion John C. Smith, who wrote the obituary report for Grand Chapter, said of him:

"Charles W. Matheny, Past Deputy Grand High Priest, was born in 1820, in St. Clair County, Illinois; removed to the city of Springfield at an early age, where he became identified with the business interests and was one of its most successful merchants. Connected with its manufactures and banking, he was president of the First National Bank at the time of his death. Of a generous and philanthropic nature, he early connected himself with Masonry and sought companionship beneath the Royal Arch. From 1842 to the day of his death in April, 1879, his interest in Masonry never ceased. A Christian Templar, he died in the full faith of a glorious resurrection and immortality in the life to come and a seat on the right of our blessed Redeemer in the Great Grand Chapter above.

"Thus ends the scene! Earth's fitful strife is o'er,
For to its waiting shore
One fateful day

The boatman came, and with his dripping oar
Bore him away.

Peace, brother, peace! But O! thou boatman pale,
If thou canst e'er reveal
Thy journey's end,

Tell us thy secret; whither didst thou sail
With him, our friend?"

GEORGE W. DEERING.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1860.



BORN in Portland, Maine, August 2, 1829. Died at Berlin, New Hampshire, May 4, 1891.

He was made a Mason in Portland Lodge August 24, 1850, and that year removed to Chicago, where he affiliated with Oriental Lodge, No. 33, and received the Capitular degrees in LaFayette Chapter, No. 2, and those of the Cryptic Rite in Chicago Council, No. 4, R. & S. M. He presided as High Priest and T. Ill. Master in the above named bodies and subsequently was Commander of Apollo Commandery, No. 1, K. T. He was elected Deputy Grand Master of this Grand Council in 1859, and the following year was elected Grand Master. He was present and took part in forming the Grand Commandery of Illinois, of which he was subsequently Grand Recorder and Grand Commander.

His work in the A. A. S. Rite gave him prominence in Illinois, where he was an active member of the Northern Supreme Council, and after his removal to Maine he was honored with the same position from that State. Wherever Bro. Deering was the Craft felt the influence of his energy in his power of interesting others in what he took an interest in himself, and by his willingness to undertake any part of any work necessary to promote the prosperity of Freemasonry.

Early in 1863 he enlisted in the army and went to the front, doing all that lay in his power to prevent the disruption of the Union. Soon after the close of the war he resumed his residence in Portland, Maine, where he remained until 1879, when he removed to Berlin, New Hampshire, where he resided until the time of his decease.



WILLIAM M. AVISE.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1869.

CHARLES FISHER.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1861-62.

Born December 24, 1822.



HIS Companion, as he stood before us at the Semi-Centennial ceremonies erect, strong and stout, showed but slight signs of the years that had gone before in his life.

His is a name that has been familiar to us in the Masonic matters of this Jurisdiction for many years. He was initiated in Springfield Lodge, No. 4, in 1847, but is now a member of Central, No. 71; also holds membership in Chapter No. 1, Council No. 2 and Elwood Commandery, No. 6, all in Springfield, in which city he has made his home for sixty years or more. He has served as presiding officer in all of these bodies more or less often and has been in his time an active and zealous worker in the Grand bodies of our State. In 1867 he was Deputy Grand Master of our Grand Lodge, and subsequently a member of the first Board of Grand Examiners to promulgate the Standard work. He was Grand Captain of the Host in our Grand Chapter in 1858, Grand Senior Warden in Grand Commandery in 1864. In the Grand Council, R. & S. M. of Illinois, he was elected M. Ill. Grand Master in 1861, serving two terms, and subsequently for twenty-five years he was its Grand Treasurer.

He is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church and has held many positions of political and social preferment at the hands of his fellow citizens. His has been a truly respectable, honorable and useful life, which we all trust may long continue in peace and comfort with us.

Companions of the Grand Royal Chapter of the State of Illinois:

At the earnest solicitation of our M. E. Grand High Priest I have consented to appear on this occasion and to join with you in the celebration of the Semi-Centennial organization of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois. And it may be that the fact of my having been present, fifty years ago, when this Grand Chapter was organized, and the general belief that I am the sole survivor of those distinguished Companions who participated in such organization, together with the fact that I have been a member of this Grand Chapter for forty-nine years, will be thought sufficient justification for any attempt I may make to speak to you.

At the time referred to I had been a resident of Springfield for ten years; was a member of Springfield Chapter, No. 1 (as ever since I have been and am now), which Chapter had existed and been acting under a charter granted by the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States. Six other Chapters, in like condition, existed in Illinois, with the officers and members of which I had in general a personal acquaintance.

Nor am I able at this time to recall any of them as living. I personally knew, I believe, every one of the representatives who came together in Springfield on the 9th and 10th days of April, 1850, charged with the duty of bringing into life this Grand Chapter.

There were seven Chapters in the State, and representatives of six of them took part in organization. Besides Springfield Chapter, No. 1, the representatives came from LaFayette Chapter, No. 2, of Chicago; Jacksonville Chapter, No. 3; Horeb Chapter, No. 4, of Henderson, Knox county; Quincy Chapter, No. 5, and Peoria Chapter, No. 7. Shawneetown Chapter, No. 6, was not represented.

The authority under which these companions assumed to act consisted of a letter addressed to William B. Warren, High Priest of Jacksonville Chapter, and written by Willis Stewart, of Louisville, Kentucky, then General Grand King of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States; but which letter was lost before the proceedings appeared in print. But the loss of this important document does not seem to have operated at all unfavorably to arrest or retard the growth and development of the new body.

It may not be thought uninteresting to recall the names of those early Companions who officially sat in that convocation, which, brief as its record is, held one session on April 9 and three on the 10th.

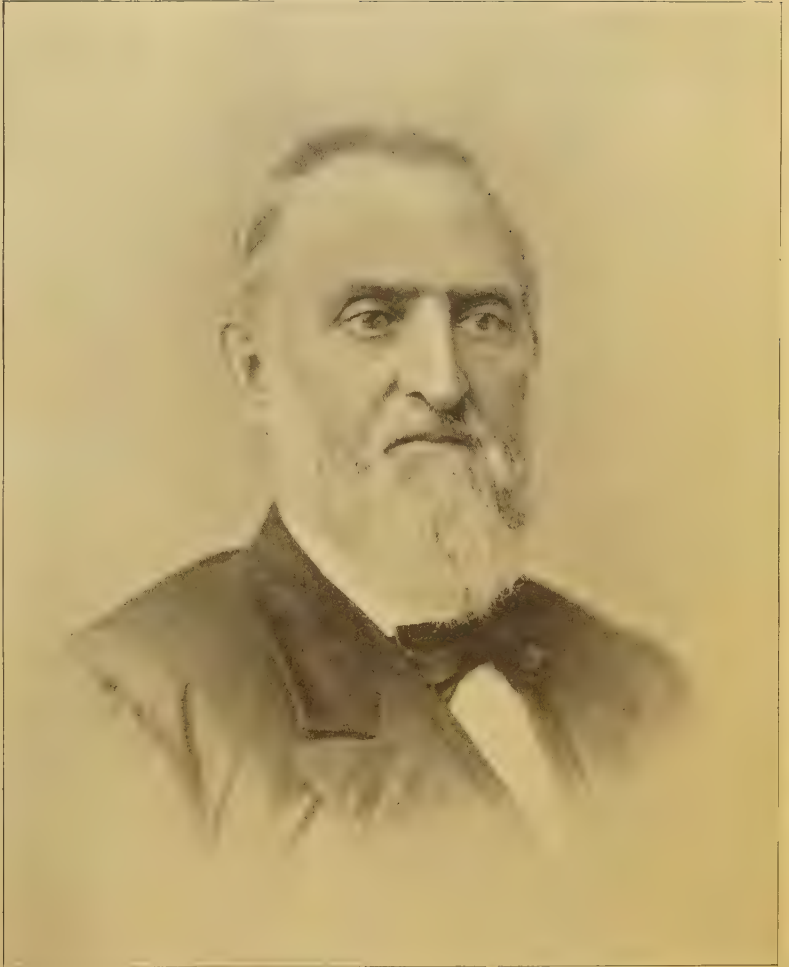
William B. Warren, of Jacksonville, was elected Grand High Priest; John H. Holton, of Quincy, Deputy Grand High Priest; James V. Z. Blaney, of Chicago, Grand King; Peter Sweat, of Peoria, Grand Scribe; Mason Brayman, of Springfield, Grand Secretary; Thomas H. Campbell, of Springfield, Grand Treasurer, and W. S. Hurst, of Jacksonville, Grand Marshal. And besides these Grand Officers were also John Uhler, of Springfield; E. R. Roe, N. English, P. Coffman and J. J. Cassell, of Jacksonville; S. G. Dean, of Horeb (Henderson); Lewis Watson and George Wyke, of Quincy—fifteen in all.

Other Companions, not delegates, were in attendance (the Grand Lodge then being in session in Springfield), among whom I recall Companion Z. P. Cabiniss, Past High Priest of Springfield Chapter, No. 1, and who acted as Grand Installing Officer.

The Grand Chapter adjourned to meet the following October at Alton, though at that time Alton had no Chapter.

While reflecting on those early times and events I have been profoundly impressed by the great changes wrought in the fifty intervening years, not only in respect of the humble position Masonry then occupied in the community and the prominence it has now attained, but in respect to the abundant harvest Death has garnered; of my Masonic associates and acquaintances then, how very few remain; and of my Companions at the birth of this Grand body, all—all are gone. They were good men and true; they loved Masonry for the acts and virtues it inculcates, and cheerfully made the sacrifices and bore the burdens required for the upbuilding of an institution ennobled by the acts, lives and deeds of so many distinguished brothers and Companions.

Their memory I revere and hold sacred, as I admonish you to emulate their virtues and unselfishness.



HIRAM W. HUBBARD.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1870.

ORLIN H. MINER.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1863.



ILL. COMP. ORLIN H. MINER was born in Wells, Vermont, May 24, 1825. In 1834 he removed with his parents to Ohio, and in 1852 he came to this State, locating in Springfield in 1853, where he resided until May 27, 1880, when he was called from labor to rest at the age of 55 years. Comp. Miner was made a Mason in Columbus Lodge, No. 30, 1849. He received the Capitular degrees of Masonry in Lancaster Chapter, No. 11, November 20, and the Cryptic degrees in Lancaster Council, No. 33, December 7, 1849, Lancaster, Ohio. He received the orders of Knighthood in Elwood Commandery, No. 6, K. T., December 12, 1863, and in April, 1866, he received the Consistory degrees up to and including the 32d degree in Occidental Consistory, Chicago, Illinois. The 33d and last degree of Scottish Rite Masonry was conferred on him by the Supreme Council at a meeting held at Chicago, June 28, 1872. He was the first Master of Tyrian Lodge, No. 333, Springfield, Illinois, filling that important office with distinguished ability for ten consecutive years. He was High Priest of Springfield Chapter, No. 1, R. A. Masons, for several years; also T. I. G. Master of Springfield Council, No. 2, Royal and Select Masters. In 1863 he was elected and served as Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council of Illinois. In 1866 he served this Grand Chapter and the Royal Craft of Illinois with great acceptance, as Most Excellent Grand High Priest. In 1868 he was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, serving the Craft in that important position for five years, when failing health compelled him to decline a further election. Having in a measure been restored to health, he was in 1878 appointed Grand Treasurer of this Grand Chapter, and also of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, which several positions he held to the day of his death. Comp. Miner also filled many positions of honor and trust in civil life, ever discharging the duties devolving upon him honestly and faithfully, and to the entire satisfaction of the public. For many years he was Chief Clerk in the State Auditor's office, and in 1864 he was elected by the people of Illinois to that highly honorable and important office, which he filled for four years with distinguished ability. He was a man of more than ordinary capabilities, of a noble, generous disposition, with a kindness of heart that endeared him to all with whom he was associated. His distinguishing characteristic was truth, and your Committee think that it may truly be said of him that he was one of "the noblest works of God, an honest man." He died at Springfield, Illinois, May 20, 1880, and was buried by Tyrian Lodge, No. 333, M. W. Grand Master T. T. Gurney officiating. In his death the Craft met with an irreparable loss. His was a character to respect, love and honor—one that will grow in brightness until the perfect day. In beautiful Oakridge Cemetery, beneath the shadows of the Lincoln Monument, Comp. Miner calmly sleeps, awaiting the summons of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

JOHN L. RAMSEY.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1864.



HIS companion was vouched for when he applied for the degrees in Freemasonry by two very well known Brothers. His petition being signed by M. W. Bro. Rob Morris and John Sherer in 1853 at Rising Sun, Ind., where he received the E. A. and F. C. degrees. Subsequently he received the third degree in Hawkeye Lodge at Muscatine, Iowa. In July, 1860, he was exalted to the R. A. in Cement Chapter at Utica, Ill., and in 1862 he received the degrees of R. & S. M. in Peru Council, No. 12. December 7, 1865, he became a Knight Templar in Ottawa Commandery No. 10. He is a P. M. of St. John Lodge at Peru, Past High Priest of the chapter at Peru and Rock Island, Past T. I. M. of Peru and Rock Island Councils R. & S. M. and also served as Eminent Commander of Everts Commandery (now Rock Island) No. 18. Companion Ramsey was for many years an active participant in all that pertained to the welfare and advancement of the best interests of the great Masonic institution with which he has so long been connected, his Masonic age being equal to that of this Grand Council.

At the annual assembly of this body in 1863 he was elected Grand P. Conductor of Work and in 1864 he became Grand Master, serving one term. His removal to Iowa has prevented his attendance at our annuals but his interest in our Fraternity still continues and he holds membership in the Lodge at Keota, the place of residence and in Commandery at Washington, Iowa.

Born September 17, 1830, at Greenfield, Hillsboro County, New Hampshire, he came West at an early day and was engaged in the railroad business, being the agent at Bureau, Ill., of which city he was also Post Master.

At his present home he has filled many places of public trust, having served as Mayor ten years, School Director fifteen years and President of the School Board for ten years.

Companion Ramsey comes from good stock, his grandfather serving in the Revolutionary war and on his mother's side being connected with Horace Greeley, ex-President Pierce, Daniel Webster, General Benjamin F. Butler and other old New England families.

Comp. Ramsey was married January 28, 1857, to Miss Mary E. Nelson, of Lexington, Ky., who came from an equally prominent family on the southern side of the country. An uncle served in the Mexican war with General Cassius M. Clay, of Kentucky, and others of the family being distinguished in the confederate cause. Their four daughters are married and living.

A comfortable competence enables him and his lifetime companion to live in the enjoyment of all the comforts of this life. May it long continue is the wish of all who know our companion's earnest devotion to the great principles of our beloved fraternity.



GEORGE E. LOUNSBURY.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1872.

JAMES H. MILES.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1865.



ILL. COMPANION JAMES H. MILES, born at Athens, Ohio, March 15, 1826. Died at his home in Chicago, February 17, 1893. This Companion affiliated with Apollo Commandery, No. 1, K. T., on September 12, 1856, was its Recorder for some time, and held the office of Eminent Commander during the years 1872 and 1873. For twelve years he was Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery, K. T., of Illinois.

He served in various places in the Grand Council, R. & S. Masters, and in 1865 was elected Grand Master. From 1871 to 1877 he was its Grand Recorder.

In Capitular Masonry Companion Miles was particularly interesting as a Ritualist. As a teacher and expounder in the several degrees in the Royal Arch Chapter he had no superior in his day.

As High Priest of Lafayette Chapter, No. 2, R. A. M., he took a commanding place in the Grand Chapter, where, after serving in many subordinate chairs, was elected Grand High Priest in 1868, and the following year was elected as its Grand Secretary, serving until 1878.

Thus it will be seen that the deceased had for more than twenty years held a prominent place in the work of our Order.

Bro. Miles was ever painstaking as an officer, and as correct as a Ritualist as he was in business.

He was reserved in manner, and had but little personal magnetism, but was always honest and fearless in the discharge of any duty.

For many years he had not taken any interest in the Order, hence was but little known to the younger members of the Rite.

He leaves a wife and three grown children to mourn his loss; let us give them our tenderest sympathy in their bereavement.

"Alas, alas, great past!

Some remember a hand which they cannot now feel;

A voice which with kindness was wont to appeal."

"Just as God leads me I will go,

I do not ask to choose my way,

Content with what He doth bestow,

I know he will not let me stray;

So as He leads, my steps I take,

A child—in Him confiding."

JAMES A. HAWLEY.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1866.



N EVENT which severs ties that have existed for more than a third of a century demands that we should pause in our employment and thoughts to note the qualities of character which won the confidence, love and esteem for him who has gone from us forever in the earthly life to be crowned with life eternal in the heavenly kingdom as a reward for faithful service in the Master's vineyard.

Illustrious Brother James Andrew Hawley was born in Webster, Monroe county, New York, August 20, 1830. Was educated in Genesee Wesleyan Seminary at Lima, now Genesee College, finishing his education in Rochester Institute, following which he was for some time engaged in teaching school, but shortly thereafter removed to Illinois and settled at Lee Center, where his ability and influence were soon felt and resulted in his election to the office of County Superintendent of Schools, in which he rendered signal service in the cause of education and the establishment of our free school system.

"In 1855 he removed to Dixon, Ill., identifying himself with its business interests until 1861, when he was elected County Clerk, to which position he devoted the best energies of his rich mind in so conducting its business affairs as to command the admiration and confidence of every one with whom he came in contact, and the universal satisfaction with which he administered this public trust is best expressed by the knowledge that he was re-elected from term to term until he had served twenty-one consecutive years, and then retired only by reason of his declination of further service.

As County Clerk for twenty-one years, member of the Board of Education for ten years, Mayor of Dixon for two years, as Cashier of the Dixon National Bank for fifteen years, as one of the organizers of the Dixon Water Company, its first President and at the time of his death its Secretary and Treasurer, together with his interests in many public and private improvements, have so identified him with the history and upbuilding of the city of his adoption as to make his work and influence a power for good to all who may have been so fortunate as to have their lot cast among the pleasant memories and beneath the shadow of his love and labor.

Brother Hawley was married to Miss Mary Augusta Gardner on June 20, 1855, who, with two daughters and three sons, remain to mingle their tears and sorrow with ours at the loss of an affectionate husband and father, a good citizen, a most noble man and our brother.



WILBUR F. BROMFIELD.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1874.

To recall his Masonic career would be but to repeat a large portion of Masonic history for Illinois during the past forty years. Its pages are adorned by thoughts and records of his master mind, ever intended for the betterment of mankind and the upbuilding of our noble institution.

He was made a Master Mason in Lee Center Lodge, No. 146, A. F. & A. M., October 17, 1856. Later he affiliated with Friendship Lodge, No. 7, at Dixon, and continued an active member until his death, serving as its Worshipful Master for nine years; was exalted to the Capitular degrees of the Holy Royal Arch in Nachusa Chapter, No. 56, at Dixon, on September 5, 1859, and served as its High Priest for three years. Received the Cryptic degrees of Royal and Select Master in Peru Council, No. 12, in December, 1864, serving as Master for one year. Was created a Knight Templar in Sycamore Commandery, No. 15, in June, 1866, and later affiliated with Dixon Commandery, No. 21, serving as its Eminent Commander for seven years. He was created a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, 32°, A. A. S. Rite, in 1869, and at the time of his death was a member of Oriental Consistory, Chicago. Created a Sov. Grand Inspector-General, 33°, at Portland, Me., August 10, 1875, and crowned an active member of the Supreme Council at Chicago, September 21, 1893. In the Grand Bodies of our State he attained their most exalted stations, serving as Grand Master of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters, for the term of 1867; as Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter for 1872; M. W. Grand Master, A. F. & A. M., 1872 and 1873, and Right Em. Grand Commander of Knights Templar, 1873.

It was our melancholy privilege to attend the funeral of our beloved brother, where the four surviving active members of the Supreme Council acted as honorary pall bearers, accompanied by a large delegation of honorary members from Chicago and other portions of the State, gathered to join with us in the last sad rites of our Order. Brief funeral services were held at St. Luke's Church on Monday afternoon, January 2, 1899, after which at the grave M. W. Bro. Edward Cook, assisted by the officers of the Grand Lodge, laid at rest the mortal remains of our beloved brother, where, beneath the shade of the stately oaks, beside the rippling waters of the beautiful Rock River, may they sing him an eternal requiem of rest until earth and sea shall give up their dead.

Bury him with fond blessings and few tears,
Or only of remembrance, not regret;
On his full life the eternal seal is set,
Unbroken till the Resurrection Day.
So let his children's children go their way,
Go and do likewise, leaving 'neath this sod
An honest man, "The noblest work of God."

Fraternally submitted,

AMOS PETTIBONE,
WALTER A. STEVENS,
GILBERT W. BARNARD.

DANIEL G. BURR.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1867.



ORN near Paris, Edgar county, Illinois, where he now resides, April 21, 1821, this companion has had an active part in building up various Masonic interests in his native place.

He was initiated in Charleston Lodge, No. 35, December 23, 1848, and is now a member of Prairie Lodge, No. 77, at Paris, of which Lodge he was W. M. for thirteen years. He is a member and P. H. P. of Edgar Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M., past T. I. M. of Young Council, No. 9, R. & S. M., and a Knight Templar in Palestine Commandery, No. 27. He has served on various committees in Grand Lodge and was D. D. Grand Master of same. He entered the official line in this Grand Council in 1864 and was elected Grand Master in 1867. Until recently he was a constant attendant at all our assemblies.

He was a non-commissioned officer in Company H, 4th Ill. Infantry during the Mexican war and employed in the State Senate in 1849. He has held the office of Postmaster and member of the Board of Education, also minor official positions of trust and responsibility.

Having retired from the active life of farming, he now enjoys a competency which affords him a life of ease and comfort.

"Long years have pass'd, old friend, since we
First met in life's young day;
And friends long loved by thee and me
Since then have dropp'd away—
But enough remains to cheer us on,
And sweeten, when ere we're met,
The glass we fill to the many gone,
And the few who're left us yet.

"Our locks, old friend, now thinly grow,
And some hang white and chill;
While some, like flow'rs 'mid winter's snow,
Retain youth's color still—
And so, in our hearts, though one by one,
Youth's sunny hopes have set,
Thank Heav'n, not all their light is gone—
We've some to cheer us yet.

"Then here's to thee, old friend, and long
May thou and I still meet,
To brighten yet with wine and song
This short life, ere it fleet—
And still as death comes stealing on,
Let's never, old friend, forget,
E'en while we sigh o'er blessings gone,
How many are left us yet.



EDWARD BLACKSHAW.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1875.

JOHN M. PEARSON.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1868.



HIS distinguished Frater was born in Newburyport, Mass., October 7, 1832. His ancestors were from England, landing in 1637, and constructing the first flouring and fulling mills ever known to the locality. He "fitted for Harvard" in the public schools of his native town, and studied as civil engineer. For several years he was professionally employed upon the various railroads of Massachusetts in and about Lowell, but sought a wider grade of usefulness by immigrating to Illinois in 1849. In 1855, November 15, he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Godfrey, daughter of the late Captain Benjamin Godfrey, after whom the town in which Comp. Pearson now resides was named. Ten years later he abandoned other pursuits and became an agriculturist, and expects to live and die upon his "broad acres."

Companion Pearson is a marked character. His intercourse with men leaves the impression of a sturdy, fixed, irreproachable manhood. His early education fitted him for many positions in civil life that he had declined, but he was induced in 1873 to accept the State position of Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner. To the duties of this important office he devoted the energies of a positive nature, and retired after four years of unremitting industry in the welfare of both corporations and citizens. Companion Pearson is one of the few in responsible and onerous public positions that retires therefrom without remote suspicion of wrong attaching to his good name. An unselfish devotion in the varied departments of life to the welfare of the people with whom he is daily associated placed him many years since in the Legislature of Illinois, and there is no person that knows him in that relation to the public that will not concede to him unswerving integrity and large legislative capacity.

It is in the great Brotherhood, however, that we know him best. He was made a Master Mason in 1854, united with the Chapter the same year, with the Council in 1855, the Commandery in 1857, and with the Scottish Rite bodies of Chicago in 1882. His Masonic affiliations are in Alton. He was soon called to preside over the first four organizations named, and subsequently became Grand High Priest, M. P. of the Grand Council and Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery. In each and all of these stations he received the commendations of his brethren for zeal, tact and commanding ability. Companion Pearson is rarely, if ever, absent from the meetings of the Grand Bodies. His presence is an assurance that forms and principles in legislation will be insisted upon, and that a question will not be disposed of except it be thoroughly canvassed and under-

stood. At the session of our Grand Lodge in 1884, he was installed Junior Grand Warden, and the same year the Supreme Council of the A. A. S. Rite for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States honored itself by electing him an honorary member thereof. He served as Senior Grand Warden, Deputy G. M., and in 1890 and 1891 presided in the Grand East.

He is an important factor in the Masonry of our jurisdiction, and graces every position assigned him. In private and social life he is the synonym of his Masonic professions, thus commanding the respect and love of the Fraternity, and the confidence of all who know him in the other departments of life.

After twenty-one years' service in the affairs of our State government, aside from local positions of trust, he is now resting, watching and waiting; strong in the faith that much good remains to be done by our land and by our Order.



LEVI R. JEROME.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1876.

WILLIAM M. AVISE.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1869.



OST Illustrrious Companion William M. Avise, Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, State of Illinois, died at his home in Quincy, December 9, 1888; his death having resulted from severe internal injuries caused by accidentally colliding with a post, followed by a fall, while in pursuit of a street car, his death occurring the next day after the accident.

Companion Avise was born in Swedesboro, N. J., February 19, 1827, and while yet a youth came to Quincy, where he made his home until his decease.

As he grew to manhood he became a highly honored and representative citizen, receiving the regard and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. His striking characteristics were sterling integrity, close and faithful application to his business and a strict regard for the faithful performance of every promise he made.

His Masonic career has been long and full of honors.

Raised a Master Mason at Quincy in Bodley Lodge, No. 1, June 14, 1852, exalted to the degree of Royal Arch in Quincy Chapter, No. 5, October 29, 1853, greeted as a Select Master in Springfield Council, No. 2, in 1856 and created a Knight Templar in Beauseant Commandery, No. 11, at Quincy, February 8, 1861. The grades of the A. A. Scottish Rite were conferred upon him in Monmouth Consistory in 1869. As Worshipful Master of Luce Lodge, No. 439, High Priest of Quincy Chapter, No. 5, Thrice Illustrrious Master of Quincy Council, No. 15, and Commander-in-Chief of Quincy Consistory, Companion Avise rendered valuable assistance toward strengthening and promoting the growth and prosperity of the Masonic organization of Quincy. In the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Illinois, Companion Avise was honored by being elected to the office of Grand Principal Sojourner for two successive years, 1867 and 1868, having also served in the several subordinate stations. His services in this Grand Council were faithfully rendered, meriting and receiving the commendation of the Craft.

His death was sudden and untimely. While we mourn his loss, let us remember his many virtues and emulate his worth.

(Obituary in Grand Council, 1889.)

HIRAM W. HUBBARD.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1870.



BORN in Litchfield, Conn., October 4, 1819. Died at his home in Centralia, Ill., January 20, 1885. He had been Master of three different Lodges; H. P. of four Chapters; T. Ill. of two Councils, and E. C. of three Commanderies. Grand High Priest, Grand Thrice Ill. and Grand Commander of those Grand bodies in Illinois. The following from the pen of M. W. Bro. Theodore T. Gurney is what we all thought and felt:

"In our thoughts we sit, with the Companions of Illinois, beside the last earthly resting place of Most Excellent Companion, Hiram W. Hubbard, Past Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter. For nearly thirty years, the majority of us have traveled the fraternal journey of life with this loved Companion. We have known him in victory and defeat, and in joy and sorrow, but cannot bring to mind an instance when he was so far forgetful of his relations to a brother that he permitted anger or vindictiveness to usurp the place of fraternal regard, though the shafts of unfriendly criticism may have been painful and unjust. His last words are the words of a Mason: 'I die without a rancorous feeling toward a single human being.' The fraternal characteristics of Companion Hubbard were rooted in his unreserved faith in God, consequently duty was an obligation to which loving obedience responded with alacrity.

"Our revered brother lived to live again. As a citizen he was esteemed, by his church honored, and as a husband and father, beloved. It would be impossible to gauge his usefulness to the circle in which he moved, by any measurement that human judgment can devise; but when we once more stand face to face with him, it will be unfolded to us the fruitage of a life consecrated to Faith, Hope and Charity. Beside the tomb of such a man is the time for meditation, if the living future is to be benefited by our existence.

"Companion Hubbard was largely known as a Chapter Ritualist, rarely equaled but never excelled. His kindly disposition and suave manner added an inexpressible charm to whatever position he was then placed—whether as a presiding officer or as a guide from Babylon to Jerusalem, he impressed his sincerity upon both candidates and Companions as thoroughly as did his private and public life leave their beneficent influences upon those with whom he was associated.

"It is not long, Companions, till we may meet him again—not long before many a noble manhood, now radiant with the sequences of a true fraternal life, shall stand with him within the courts of the spiritual building on high, thanking the Father for an institution that has led to His presence in life, and to the glad rewards of the future."



JONATHAN J. FRENCH.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1877.

WILLIAM A. LEVANWAY.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1871.



E have been unable to obtain any details of the Masonic history of this Ill. Companion more than shown in his appearance at and official action in the Grand Masonic bodies during his residence in this State.

During his residence at Dixon he was W. M. of Friendship Lodge, High Priest of Nachusa Chapter and T. I. M. of Dixon Council.

In all of the above he was an active and zealous worker, as he was also in Dixon Commandery, which he served as Eminent Commander.

He was especially well known in our Grand Lodge as being distinguished for his activity in the office of D. D. Grand Master and all along the line of those interests which lead to the betterment of our great Fraternity and promoting whatever was intended to build up and extend its usefulness and influence in the community where he lived. He came into official position in this Grand Council in 1868, as Grand Principal Conductor of Work and in 1871 was elected Grand Master. His annual address in 1872 showed that he had taken a deep interest in the duties of the office and that he had labored with great industry in the endeavor to extend the Cryptic Rite throughout this jurisdiction. Those of us who knew him at that time had great confidence in his integrity as a man and in his ability as a zealous and useful member of our Order.

He was equally esteemed and respected as a well read and skillful practitioner in his profession as a physician.

In the fall of 1873 he removed to California, where his family had preceded him, and later settled at Oakland in that State, continuing the practice of medicine until the time of his death, which occurred in the summer of 1882.

“They are waiting for us in the City of Peace,
 And, whithersoever we fare,
 We shall ne’er find a pathway which leads not at last
 With unerring certainty there.
 They are waiting for us. We are hastening on.
 Each eventide brings us more near
 The shadowy portals through which those have gone,
 Whom we miss in our journeyings here.
 “O silent, O wonderful City of Peace,
 God’s outlying villa of rest,
 Where he calls all his children to give them release
 From the toils that their lives have oppressed!
 O city coeval with time in its birth,
 And the last yet to be overthrown,
 The gathering place of the millions of earth,
 The seaport for countries unknown.”

GEORGE E. LOUNSBURY.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1872.



HIS brilliant and beloved Companion was born at Long Ridge, Conn., in 1837. He was made a Mason in Cache Lodge, No. 290, at Mound City, Ill., in the year 1865. He was elected Master of the above Lodge in December, 1866; R. W. Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge in 1868; Grand S. W. in 1870; Deputy Grand Master in 1872, and served as Grand Master in 1874 and 1875, all of which positions he filled with distinguished ability.

In our Grand Chapter he filled the various official chairs from Grand Captain of the Host in 1869 to Grand High Priest in 1873.

He died in the city of Denver, Colo., on the 4th day of August, 1878, whither he had gone in the vain and delusive hope that the salubrious climate of the Centennial State would restore his failing health and recuperate his wasted form and energies. Vain hope! The destroyer came in the guise of consumption, the most insidious and deceptive of all diseases, and though for many months he fought bravely for life, he was finally vanquished, and beneath the shadows of the Rocky Mountains, whose snow-capped summits pierce the skies, catching the first beams of the rising sun, and around whose tops lingers the last rosy flush of day, a thousand miles from home and the Masonic home he loved so well, George E. Lounsbury laid down his pilgrim's staff and calmly and peacefully went to rest.

"The mists of death hang low upon life's sea;

The unseen shore

Beyond the darkness rises silently

Forevermore;

The golden city flashes from the strand,

But mortal eye sees not the distant land.

"But there are voices in that unseen land

Which we have heard,

Of loved ones standing with us, hand in hand,

With smile and word,

That kindled here our hearts with Friendship's glow,

And breathed on us their music, soft and low.

"We knew them here, and with them wept and smiled;

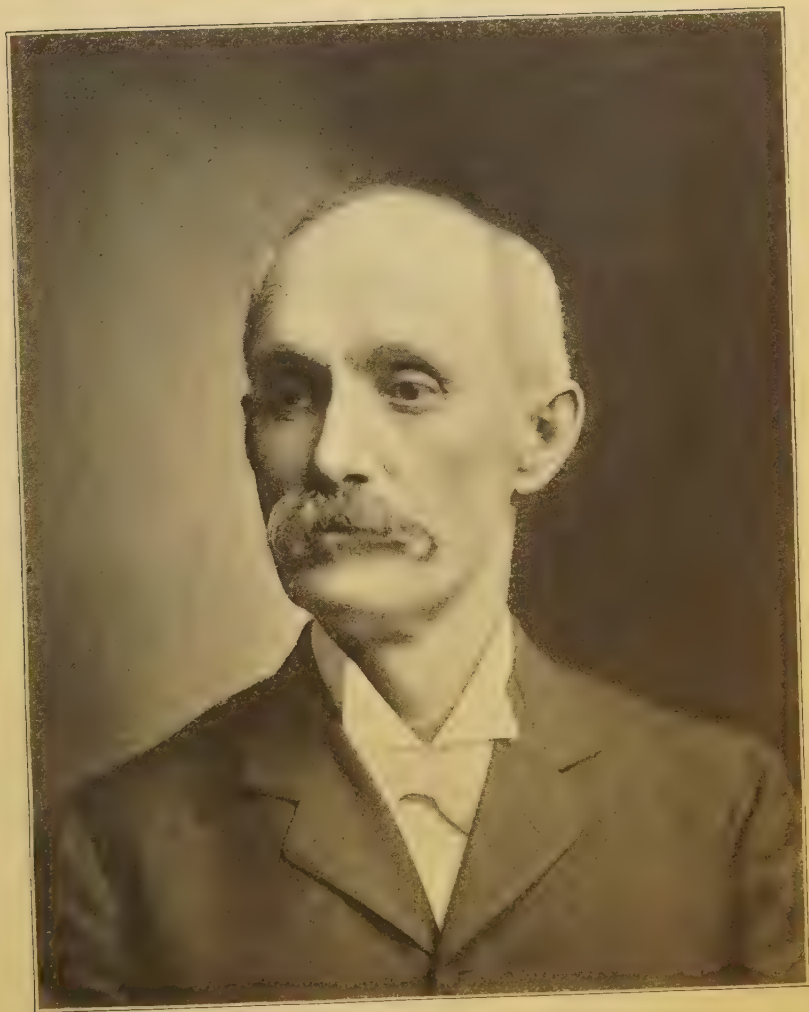
Our life was one;

We met and parted, still of each beguiled;

Their work was done;

And they are resting in the morning land,

And we are toiling yet with heart and hand."



PHILANDER W. BARCLAY.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1878.

JOHN F. BURRILL.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1873.



HERE'S an end to all toiling some day—sweet day,
But it's weary the waiting, weary!
There's a harbor somewhere in a peaceful bay,
Where the sails will be furled, and the ship will lay
At anchor—somewhere in the faraway—
But it's weary the waiting, weary!

"There's an end to the troubles of souls opprest,
But it's weary the waiting, weary!
Some time in the future, when God thinks best,
He'll lay us tenderly down to rest,
And roses'll bloom from the thorns in the breast,
But it's weary the waiting, weary!

"There's an end to the world with its stormy frown,
But it's weary the waiting, weary!
There's a light somewhere that no dark can drown,
And where life's sad burdens are all laid down,
A crown—thank God—for each cross a crown—
But it's weary the waiting, weary!"

WILBUR F. BROMFIELD.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1874.



BORN February 1, 1840, at Fort Plain, N. Y., our Ill. Companion was barely of the required age when he was initiated, passed and raised to the degree of Master Mason in Hamilton Lodge, No. 76, at Canajoharie, N. Y., in 1861. The following year, 1862, he received the degrees of Capitular Masonry in Hiram Union Chapter, No. 53, R. A. M., at the same place. After removing to this State he was greeted as a Royal and Select Master in Mendota Council, No. 32, R. & S. M., in 1867 and in 1868 was knighted a Templar in St. John Commandery, No. 26, at Peru, Ill. He received the several degrees and orders in the A. A. S. Rite and was crowned a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, 32° in Oriental Consistory, Chicago. He is a Past Master of Tuscola Lodge, No. 332, at Tuscola, Past High Priest of Mendota Chapter, No. 79, Past T. I. M. of Mendota Council, also Past Eminent Commander of both Melita Commandery, No. 37, and Constantine, No. 51.

At the annual assembly of this Grand Council, October, 1870, he entered the line of Grand Officers as Grand Captain of the Guard and was rapidly promoted until 1874, when he was elected Grand Master, serving the customary period of one year with distinction. At the conclave of the Grand Commandery of Illinois in 1879, he began official standing in that body as Grand Warder, passing along the usual line of offices until 1886, when he was elected Grand Commander. For many years Companion Bromfield was one of the foremost in promoting the Masonic interests in this State and a large number of the constituent bodies of all degrees are indebted to him for able, zealous and efficient assistance.

As a teacher in the public schools for so many years as to become one of the best known and highly respected educators in the State, he has gained the regard and esteem of all who are interested in the public school system of Illinois. He has held the position of Superintendent of Schools at Mendota, Tuscola and Lincoln in this State and is now engaged in the same profession.

His wife was Harriet M. Evans, of Troy, N. Y., to whom he was married August 5, 1863, and with one daughter is his home companion. The only other child, a son, has recently passed away, and thus leaves a great sorrow in the recently so happy family.

"Those whom we loved and lost so long ago
Dwell in those cities, far from mortal woe;
Haunt those fresh woodlands, whence sweet carolings soar,
Eternal peace have they;
God wipes their tears away;
They drink that river of life which flows for Evermore."



N. Bowditch

EDWARD BLACKSHAW.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1875.



OUR venerable Companion was born in Bromley, England on the first day of September, 1831, where he was educated in the public and high schools. Following an early inclination he soon began the study of dentistry and taxidermy, in the pursuit of both of which he served his time. In 1853 he came to this country and settled at Fond du Lac, Wis., where he remained until 1858, when he came to Urbana, Ill., where he has followed his profession ever since. Arriving when that city was yet in its infancy, he has witnessed its growth as well as that of the Masonic fraternity, in both of which he has been an active and useful participant. He has built up not only an excellent practice in his profession but also a wealth of warm personal and social friendships. The Doctor was married in 1853 to Miss Elizabeth Jones, whose demise occurred in 1881. Soon after he married again Mrs. Mary J. Strachan. He is very liberal in religious and political views, acting on the instincts of a broad and well developed idea of doing the best that he can for his fellow man. In his profession he has the credit of being among the first to avail himself in his practice of the great improvements and inventions that have so much distinguished that profession in the past forty years.

Our Companion is well and favorably known as an active and zealous Freemason, having been made a Master Mason in Fond du Lac Lodge, No. 27, Wisconsin, October 23, 1857. He was exalted a R. A. M. in Champaign Chapter, No. 50, March 20, 1863, received the degrees of R. & S. M. in Urbana Council, No. 19, August 24, 1865, and Knighted a Templar in Urbana Commandery October 18, 1865. He is a Past Master of Urbana Lodge and was the first High Priest of Urbana Chapter, No. 80, and held that office ten years. For twenty-five years he was T. I. M. of Urbana Council and is a Past E. C. of Urbana Commandery, No. 16, K. T., as well as Past Grand R. A. Captain of the Grand Chapter, R. A. M., of this State. If the Doctor has a particular partiality for any one thing above another in our great fraternity it is for the mysteries of the work and ceremonies of the Cryptic Rite, having made a study of their beautiful teachings and successfully implanted his conception of what they should be in the ritual of this jurisdiction.

At an early period in his representing his Council in this Grand body, his valuable services were recognized and after serving in various stations therein he was elected Grand Master in 1875. After passing the official chairs he still continues active with counsel and advice and rarely misses an annual assembly of the Grand Council of Illinois. His many warm Masonic friends trust that his zeal and activity may long continue among us.

LEVI R. JEROME.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1876.



T the annual assembly of this Grand Council in 1892, M. Ill. Comp. F. E. Hoberg presented the following in the report of Committee on Obituaries:

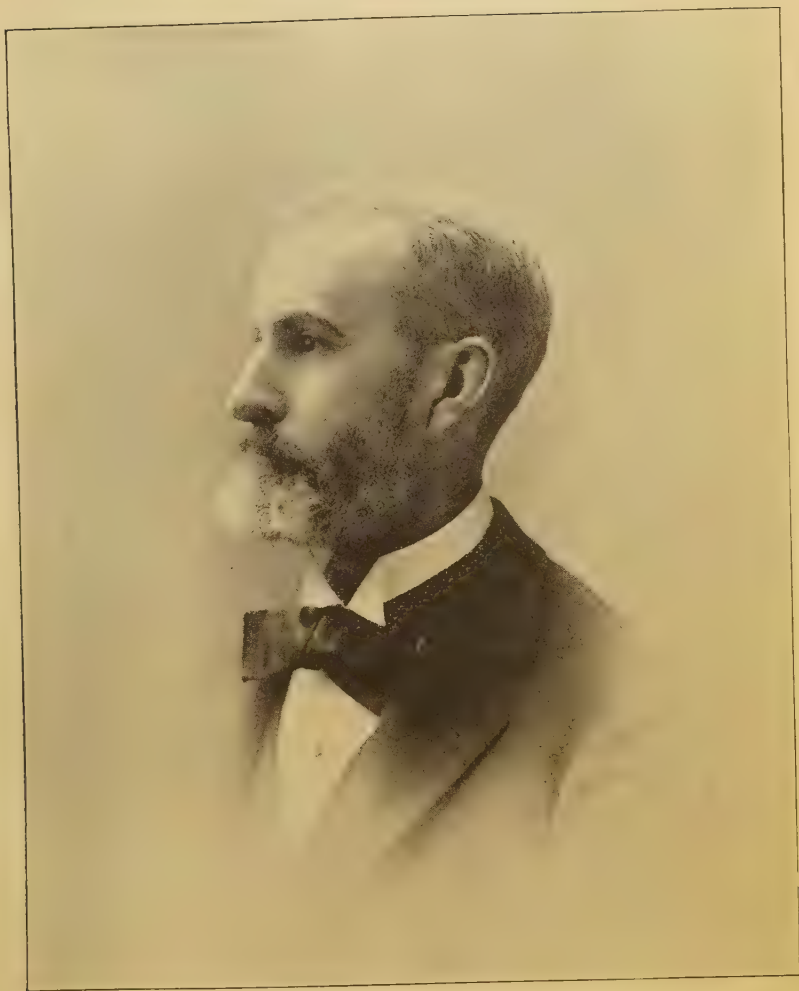
"Levi Randall Jerome, a Past Grand Master of this jurisdiction at the village of LaGrange, Ill., on the first day of February, A. D. 1892, after a long and honorable life, put off the habiliments of earth and entered the higher mysteries.

"Comp. Jerome was born near La Fargeville, Jefferson county, New York, on June 26, 1823. It was intended that he should follow the occupation of a farmer, but at the early age of twelve years he was attacked with a form of hip disease which practically debarred him from agricultural pursuits and rendered necessary the choice of some other occupation. At the age of sixteen he entered the Black River Literary and Religious Institute at Watertown, N. Y., where he remained two years and then commenced the study of medicine. In 1844 he graduated as Doctor of Medicine from Geneva College, New York, and at once entered upon the practice of his profession. For the next twelve years he remained in practice in New York State, when the attractions of his early life allured him again to agriculture in the Maumee Valley of Ohio. Here he remained for nearly eight years, when he removed to Princeton, Ill., engaging for a time in mercantile business and subsequently in the organization of the Illinois Masons' Benevolent Society, the first co-operative Masonic insurance organization in Illinois. In 1876 he removed to Chicago, finally locating at LaGrange, where he remained until the time of his death.

"Brother Jerome was twice married, in 1848 to Miss Charlotte G. McGovern, of Watson, N. Y., who died in 1873; and in 1876 to Mrs. Fanny A. DeWitt, of Chicago, who survives him. The fruit of his first marriage was one son, but no children were born of his second marriage.

"In his religious views Companion Jerome was steadfast in his own faith, but broad and tolerant of the opinions of others. He was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church and died in the full assurance of its teachings.

"His Masonic career was marked if not brilliant. He was a member of all the bodies of the York and Scottish Rites. During his residence at Princeton he served as High Priest of his Chapter, Thrice Illustrious Master of the Council and Eminent Commander of the Commandery located at that city. He assisted in the organization of the Scottish Rite bodies at that place and was for eight years Illustrious Commander-in-Chief of Princeton Consistory. In 1877 he was M. I. Grand Master of the Grand Council of Illinois, R. & S. M., and since the decease of Ill. T. T. Gurney has been the



GEORGE W. CURTISS.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1883.

Committee on Correspondence of that body. At the time of his decease he was the Grand Sovereign of the Knights of Rome and Constantine for Illinois.

"Personally our deceased brother was affable and kind. His tenacious insistence of opinion sometimes drew upon him the adverse criticism of others, but the loyalty he displayed to his own convictions was only indicative of his warm and unswerving devotion to his friends. In Masonry he beheld a vast field for philosophical disquisition and inquiry and to this he devoted many years of his life; its practice, no less than its precepts, he cultivated assiduously; and now that he has gone we remember only the kindly heart that pulsated in his emaciated and enfeebled body and the bright mind that shed a light upon whatever it touched. In many ways he has left an indelible imprint on the Masonry of Illinois, and, though his hand is stilled in death, his usefulness has not ended, for the fruits of his efforts live after him and his name will long remain associated with those branches of our art which witnessed his last and best labors."

JONATHAN J. FRENCH.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1877.



OF this Companion, M. Ill. Companion Levi R. Jerome, who presented the report on obituaries in Grand Council, said:

"Jonathan J. French, M. D., was born at Covington, Ohio, January 31st, 1845. His educational advantages were good and well improved. He graduated from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1866 with high honor. He was a good musician and made a specialty of it, many churches and lodges having enjoyed the benefit of his skill upon the organ. He was made a Mason at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and was a member of various bodies in Chicago. He was principally instrumental in forming Golden Rule Lodge, No. 726, and in having it constituted in a creditable manner. He might have been its Worshipful Master, but preferred to receive no office. He was a Royal Arch Mason, Knight Templar, a thirty-second degree, a Royal Ark Mariner, a Knight of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, a member of the Royal Order of Scotland, etc., having probably received more degrees than any other man in this country. He held numerous Grand Offices, among them Grand Sovereign of the Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine of Illinois; Chief Intendant General and Grand Recorder of the same. To him is due much of the credit of establishing this Order in Illinois and throughout the United States, and it is admitted that he is the author of the best history of its rise and progress ever written and he rose to the second position in the Grand Imperial Council of the Order in the United States. In October, 1877, he was elected to the office of Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Illinois, and presided over its deliberations with his usual kindness and urbanity.

"He died in Kansas City, Missouri, whither he had recently moved, August 24th, 1878, of malarial typhoid fever.

"Ill. Companion French was an earnest and sincere worker in Cryptic Masonry, positive by nature and with no bending from what he deemed his duty, he was likely to make enemies as friends. Those best acquainted with him knew him to be large hearted and affectionate, true to his Masonic obligations and honest to his fellow man. He has bidden us his last farewell and taken his departure to higher duties in another sphere, that can only be reached through the gates of death."



HARVEY E. HUSTON.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1884-1885.

PHILANDER W. BARCLAY.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1878.



HIS M. Ill. Companion was born at Russellville, Ky., December 30, 1832, and has been until recent years engaged in mercantile pursuits during his life. He resided in Chicago from 1854 until 1860, subsequently in Kentucky, where he was made a Mason at Bowling Green in 1864, and in 1865 a Royal Arch Mason. The Templar Orders were conferred on him in Cairo Commandery, No. 13, during the month of December, 1868, and in that year also he received the degree of Royal and Select Master. His home is in Cairo, where he settled in 1867, engaging in the drug trade on a large scale. From that time until the present he has been an important factor in all Masonic affairs, not only in that city, but of those of the state at large.

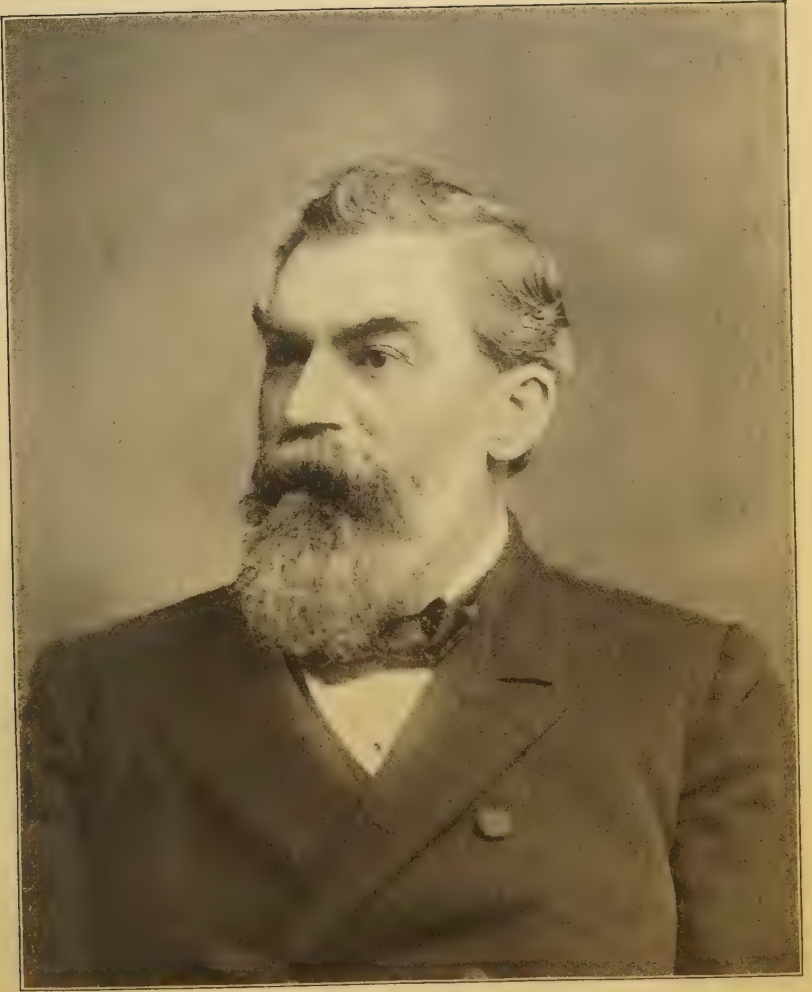
His record in all branches of the Fraternity has been one of great zeal and activity, not only in the subordinate bodies, but in the Grand Bodies, having served as Master, High Priest, T. Ill. Master, and Eminent Commander in Cairo and District Deputy Grand Master of Grand Lodge, Grand High Priest of Grand Chapter, M. Ill. Grand Master of Grand Council and Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, all in Illinois. He is a member of Oriental Consistory, S. P. R. S., thirty-second degree, since April 19, 1896, an officer in Gourgas Chapter, Rose Croix, and received the thirty-third degree in the A. A. S. Rite, September 18, 1900.

The loss of his estimable wife a short time since deprived him of his domestic partner, with whom he had shared the pleasures and sorrows of life for many years. A truly Christian member of the Methodist Church, to those who know the sterling worth, estimable character and genuine goodness of the man, words of honor or of praise are unnecessary. He is one of whom it may be truly said: "He is ever active in doing the best work that is to be done for the good of the Fraternity, as he is in deeds of charity and beneficence for the welfare and progress of humanity."

The following from the pen of a great admirer of M. E. Companion Barclay we glean from the Voice of Masonry:

Pause and peruse the world's most varied thought,
 Her dreams, her legends and her histories;
 Inspire her muse to sing of wonders wrought;
 Let science probe the earth's deep mysteries,
 And read the story of a new world's birth—
 New star, athwart the deep and sombre gloom,
 Dimpled with sunlit hues—this verdant earth.
 E'en tell the tale of every wondrous plan,
 Regarded yet, as best, an honest man.

When over desert tracts in Persian lands
A pilgrim wand'rer plods with weary pace,
Lest he should perish midst the lurid sands,
Knelless, he throws himself upon his face.
Extended thus, he waits the simoon's blast.
Rejoice! He rises up—the danger past.
Behold the honest man who stands erect
And waits immoral simoons whirl and pass,
Regardless, in his worth, of howl and wreck,
Calmly he stands and weathers out the blast.
Let duty call, e'en death no horror hath;
And, standing firm, heeds not the simoon's breath,
Yet, loving life, he dies at peace with death.



JOHN O'NEILL.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1879, '80, '81, '82.

JOHN O'NEILL.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1879-80-81-82.



FOR many years this Companion was a prominent figure in all matters Masonic in Chicago and in our Grand Bodies. Having faithfully performed his duties, he is in later years giving his attention to affairs pertaining to the improvement and benefit of the City of Chicago, which is his particular pride, and which he has served so long and faithfully as a private citizen and public official.

Honest Jack O'Neill, as his friends delight to call him, is well known to all who have to do with public improvements of Chicago, and brings to the discharge of those duties a ripe judgment and great efficiency gained by long experience in promoting the best interests and welfare of our city and county.

He was made a Mason in Blair Lodge, No. 393, A. F. & A. M., July 11, 1867, and served in various offices, being W. M. in 1870-71. He received the Capitular degrees in Washington Chapter, No. 43, R. A. M., and served it as High Priest during 1874-5, and his record in that position was one of the most remarkable known to our jurisdiction. February 13, 1872, he was Knighted in Apollo Commandery, No. 1, K. T., and has served in various official positions and been promoted to Eminent Commander.

In Cryptic Masonry he received the degrees in Siloam Council in 1873 and was T. I. Master of it in 1874, where he was equally distinguished as in the Chapter. June 25, 1870, he was proclaimed a thirty-second degree member of the A. A. S. Rite in Oriental Consistory, and soon took an active part in the ritual of those degrees, presiding over the Lodge of Perfection, Council P. of J., and was Commander-in-Chief three years. He was crowned an Honorary member thirty-third degree in the Northern Supreme Council on August 16, 1876.

His zeal and efficiency early attracted attention in the Grand bodies of our State, where he filled many positions in Grand Lodge, and after having served a time with zeal and fidelity was elected Grand High Priest of our Grand Chapter in 1885, and Grand Master of Grand Council, R. & S. M., in 1879, serving four years during the period that those degrees were merged in the Chapter ritual.

For a long time Companion O'Neill was engaged in manufacturing business in this city, in which he accumulated a handsome competency that enabled him to retire from business other than to care for his property and his official duties.

GEORGE W. CURTISS.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1883.



AS made a Master Mason on the 12th of August, 1870, in Western Star Lodge, No. 240, of Champaign, Ill., and exalted to the Royal Arch degree on the 15th of April, 1871. He obtained a dimit from these bodies in 1874 to become a member of Urbana Lodge, No. 157, and Urbana Chapter, No. 80, at Urbana, Ill. He passed the circle of Cryptic Masonry and was greeted a Select Master in Urbana Council, No. 19, and was created a Knight Templar in Urbana Commandery, No. 16, June 15, 1874. He still maintains his membership in all these bodies. In November, 1886, he obtained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in Peoria Consistory and received the degree of Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Supreme Council, N. M. J., September 17, 1889. He was for several years High Priest of Urbana Chapter, No. 80, and Thrice Illustrious Master of Urbana Council. He was elected and served as Eminent Commander of Urbana Commandery and has held many of the subordinate offices in all these bodies. He was elected and served as M. E. S. P. G. M. of Peoria Council, Princes of Jerusalem, and is at present M. W. and P. M. of Peoria Chapter of Rose Croix and First Lieutenant Commander in Peoria Consistory, S. P. R. S. He was elected Grand Master of the First Veil in the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois, and, passing through all of the line offices, became Grand High Priest in 1886, was Grand Master of the Grand Council R. & S. M., of Illinois, in 1883, and is Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Illinois.

Companion Curtiss was born in Chicago on the 27th of January, 1849. His father, James Curtiss, was twice Mayor of that city at an early day, and in 1854 he removed with his family to Champaign, Ill., where George W. grew to manhood. He was only thirteen years of age when he started out in life for himself, and since that time has been dependent entirely upon his own efforts. The success that he has achieved is due entirely to his own labors. In January, 1869, he entered the bank of D. Gardner & Company, at Champaign, and continued in that institution for five years, during which time he completely mastered the business. In 1888 he became a member of the firm of C. E. & C. M. Anthony, at Peoria, dealers in mortgages and loans, now the Anthony Loan and Trust Company. He is Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant General Manager of the company, and his superior ability and keen discrimination has added to the success which attends the firm.

Mr. Curtiss was married in Urbana, Ill., November 29, 1871, to Pauline C. Somers, and has one child, a daughter.



GEORGE M. MOULTON.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1888.

HARVEY E. HUSTON.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1884-1885.

From the East of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters,
State of Illinois,

Office of the M. Ill. Grand Master.

Decatur, May 13th, 1895.



O all Thrice Illustrious Masters and Companions in our Obedience—
Greeting:

Companions: It becomes my painful duty to announce to you the removal by death of one of our number, Harvey E. Huston, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Illinois, whose death occurred May 4th, 1895, in the city of Chicago.

He was a member of Fraternal Lodge, No. 58, Markwell Chapter, No. 48, and Monticello Council, No. 27, R. & S. Masters, located at Monticello, Ill. While our Most Illustrious Companion was faithful in all his duties to the several bodies of Masonry with which he was connected, yet he gave a larger portion of his time and a greater amount of labor to the upbuilding and maintaining of the Cryptic Rite, claiming that as Royal and Select Masters we must "keep pace with the progressive spirit of the age, or we would be distanced in the mighty rush of events in which we are participating; that we must eliminate all that is useless, false and unworthy, and assimilate all that is good, beautiful and true that tends to make men kinder husbands, fathers and neighbors, better citizens and wiser rulers; that tends to lift our common humanity to a higher moral and intellectual plane, near to the great fountain of life and light, worthy the companionship of the Grand Artificer of the Universe in undissolving, eternal council of the hereafter."

Such was the language used by our Past Grand Master and his daily walk was in strict conformity therewith. He was our Grand Master in 1884 and again in 1885 and in the performance of his duties was untiring and full of zeal and never for a moment neglected anything that would contribute to the well-being of our institution. In all the walks of life he was honored and respected; as a citizen he had the confidence and highest esteem of the community in which he lived; as a member of the bar, he was the peer of his associates and as a jurist on the bench he was ever just, faithful and conscientious in the discharge of his duties. "Justice and mercy marked his conduct" in all his transactions. As a Mason he never lost sight of his fraternal obligations to his companions. Our Companion's sickness was of long duration and he battled manfully for the victory, yet, throughout its continuance, he did not murmur or complain and when the termination came he yielded with the assurance of a well-spent and useful life and an abiding hope of a glorious immortality.

The remains of our companion were, by his last request, conveyed from Chicago to Monticello, where they were interred with the usual Masonic ceremonies conducted by Fraternal Lodge, No. 58, the services being attended by a large representation of Masonic brethren from adjoining counties, as well as a large concourse of citizens of Piatt county, thus attesting to his good life and character.

NATHANIEL BOWDITCH.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1886-87.



ATHANIEL BOWDITCH was born October 6, 1845, at Salem, Massachusetts, and is a descendant of the old colonial family of that name. His early life was passed in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture and assisting his father, a noted contractor and builder, at Leicester, Worcester county, Massachusetts. He received his education in the common schools of the state and at the age of eighteen graduated with honors at the Leicester High School. Possessing the mechanical proclivities which have so distinguished the Bowditch family, he turned his attention to the acquisition of the trade of a machinist, a pursuit in which he soon became proficient, and which he afterward followed for a time with much success. His first active efforts were made in the city of Boston, where he remained until 1866, when, feeling that the West afforded a broader field for the development of his inclinations and abilities, he removed to the State of Illinois, locating first at Aurora, thence removing to Batavia, where he remained for two years. From this place he again removed to Aurora, where he has since continually resided. In 1874 he became connected with the safe business, and for many years was the general traveling agent of the Mosler Safe Company of Hamilton, Ohio. As a business man, Companion Bowditch enjoys a most enviable reputation for uprightness and fair dealing, while his fame as an ingenious and skillful mechanic in all matters pertaining to safes, locks and combinations extend to every part of the State. His active connection with the safe business ceased three years ago, and since that time he has been actively engaged in developing and manufacturing a number of important inventions.

In Masonry Companion Bowditch has long occupied a high and influential position. He was made a Master Mason in Batavia Lodge, No. 404, September 4, 1868; was exalted to the Royal Arch in Fox River Chapter, No. 14, October 29, 1868; greeted a Select Master in Sycamore Council, No. 36, September 27, 1869; and created a Knight Templar in Aurora Commandery, No. 22, April 21, 1876. In the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite he received the grade of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, Thirty-second degree in Princeton Consistory, April 22, 1874, but at the present time is an affiliate of Oriental Consistory of Chicago. He was also one of the nine companions who organized Aurora Council, No. 45, in 1869, and was its first Deputy Illustrious Master, since which time he has served it for many years as Thrice Illustrious Master, and of which office he is the present incumbent. He is a Past High Priest of Fox River Chapter, No.



WILLIAM K. FORSYTH.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1889.

14, R. A. M., and has served two years as Eminent Commander of Aurora Commandery, No. 22. In the Grand Council of Illinois, R. & S. M., he was elected to the office of Grand Thrice Illustrious, and when, in the following year, that office was abolished by adoption of the new Constitution, was elected Grand Captain of the Guard. In October, 1886, he was elected to the office of Most Illustrious Grand Master, a position he filled with such signal ability that on the reassembling of the Grand Council in the following year he was re-elected to the same office. Upon expiration of his second term he was appointed to the office of Grand Lecturer, an appointment which has been confirmed by successive Grand Masters for eleven years, when he retired from the duties of that office. It is generally conceded that during the trying period which marked the reorganization of the Grand Council the services rendered by Companion Bowditch did more to augment its prosperity and place it upon a solid foundation than that of any other person. The Cryptic Rite having thus engaged his attention, his earnest endeavors have never flagged, and it is not an exaggeration to say that he is regarded as the foremost exponent of the rite as practiced in Illinois today. In its allied branch of capitular Masonry he is also an active worker. He was elected Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Illinois in October, 1899, after having served in all of the line offices, retiring from the position at the close of the Semi-Centennial ceremonies, over which he had the honor to preside. He is Grand Representative of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Oregon, near the Grand Chapter of Illinois, and Grand Representative of the Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters of the States of Colorado and Vermont, near the Grand Council of Illinois. Socially, Companion Bowditch is a courteous, affable gentleman; the center of a large circle of warm and admiring friends. He was married in 1870 to Miss Sarah Thompson, and one daughter is growing up to do the honors of his home. In personal appearance he is above the medium height and of a commanding presence. He is easy and fluent in conversation, and brings to whatever task he may have to perform the strength of an indomitable will and a never tiring zeal.

GEORGE M. MOULTON.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1888.



GEORGE MAYHEW MOULTON, the eldest son and for many years his father's associate in business, was born in Readsboro, Vermont, March, 15, 1851, and was brought by his parents to Chicago in 1853, since which time he has been a resident of this city. He entered the public schools and was graduated in the high school at the age of seventeen, with the class of 1868. He then began business with his father, and as time passed, thoroughly mastered every detail connected with the erection of the large grain elevators which were the specialty of the company. He also learned the carpenter's trade. In January, 1870, he went with his father to Duluth and aided in the construction of the first grain elevator built in that section of the country.

George M. Moulton is a man of varied resources and his efforts have been by no means limited to one line of industrial interests. He was one of the stockholders in the World's Columbian Exposition and stands among the foremost business men of Chicago, whose avenues of commerce, extending in all directions, largely control the trade of the country. He is a member of the Union League Club of Chicago.

Mr. Moulton was married March 12, 1873, in Burlington, Iowa, to Anna Florence Garland. They have two children, Edith May, who was born in Winona, Minnesota, and Arthur Garland, who was born in Chicago.

In 1886 Mr. Moulton was commissioned a major in the Second Regiment, Illinois National Guards. He resigned his commission in January, 1890, retiring when Col. H. A. Wheeler—at whose solicitation he entered the service—retired from the command of this regiment.

In February, 1894, Colonel Moulton, then a staff officer attached to the First Brigade, I. N. G., was unanimously elected colonel of the Second Infantry, I. N. G., the largest regiment in the State.

April 26, 1898, Colonel Moulton reported at Springfield, Ill., with his regiment for service in the Spanish-American War, and they were mustered into United States service May 16, 1898, serving thereafter at Camp Cuba Libre, Jacksonville, Fla.; Camp Onward, Savannah, Ga., and Camp Columbia, Havana, Cuba. While in Cuba, Colonel Moulton was specially detailed as Chief of Police of Havana, being the first to serve in that capacity under United States governmental control of Cuba. He is now General in command of the First Brigade Illinois Militia.

Mr. Moulton is an enthusiastic Mason and has taken the following degrees in Masonry: He was raised a Master Mason in Covenant Lodge,



Geo. M. Marvell



No. 526, A. F. and A. M., February 26, 1875; exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Corinthian Chapter, No. 69, May 17, 1875; greeted Select Master in Siloam Council, No. 53, August 7, 1875; created a Knight Templar in St. Bernard Commandery, No. 35, September 1, 1875; created S. P. R. S., 32d degree, in Oriental Consistory, A. A. S. R., June 4, 1880. He was crowned as Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33d degree, A. A. S. R., for the Northern Jurisdiction, U. S. A., September 20, 1887, in the Supreme Council of which Rite he is Marshal of the Camp; was created Knight of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, Knight of St. John of Palestine, and Guardian Knight of the Holy Sepulchre in the Grand Council of the State of Illinois, October 25, 1875. He also holds a membership in Queen Esther Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star and Medinah Temple, A. A. O., Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

Among the positions he has filled are the following: In Lodge, Senior Deacon, 1877, Junior Warden, 1878, and 1890; Senior Warden in 1891, and Master in 1892; in Chapter, King, 1884 and 1885, and High Priest, 1886, receiving order of High Priesthood October, 1886; in Council, Thrice Illustrious Master, 1884; in Commandery, Captain General, 1877, Generalissimo, 1878, and Eminent Commander, 1883; in Chicago Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16th degree, A. A. S. R., Sovereign Prince Grand Master, 1884 and 1885; in Consistory, S. P. R. S., 32d degree, A. A. S. R., Second Lieutenant Commander, 1885, 1886 and 1887, and First Lieutenant Commander until January, 1890, when he became the Illustrious Commander-in-Chief: in Grand Lodge, Junior Grand Warden, 1895 and 1896; Senior Grand Warden, 1897-1898, being elected Deputy Grand Master October, 1899, and Grand Master in 1901, which office he is now filling; in Grand Chapter, R. A. M., Grand Master First Veil, 1887, through the line to Grand High Priest, 1895; in Grand Council, R. and S. M., Grand Master, 1889; in Grand Commandery, K. T., Grand Commander, 1890. At Washington in 1889, he was appointed Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Encampment, K. T., U. S. A., for the term ending August, 1892, elected Grand Senior Warden at Denver for term ending August, 1895, at Boston elected Grand Captain General for term ending August, 1898, and at Pittsburgh elected Grand Generalissimo for term ending August, 1901, and at Louisville he was elected D. G. Master. In the Orders of Christian Knighthood, known as Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders, Comp. Moulton was Sovereign of St. John's Conclave and has successively occupied the stations up to M. I. Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Council, for the Western Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

In 1884 he became one of the incorporators of the Knights Templar and Masons' Life Indemnity Company, a fraternal co-operative company, of which he was vice-president until 1890, when he succeeded the late Dr. J. Adams Allen, as president. In 1885 he became one of the incorporators of the Illinois Masonic Orphans' Home and was elected president of the Association, filling that office until 1890, when he retired voluntarily, remaining, however, in the board of trustees.

WILLIAM K. FORSYTH.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1889.



HE experience of the writer has lead him to believe that some of the members of our Fraternity are really first prepared to be made Masons in the heart. The unselfish devotion to the carrying out of our teachings in their every day life as citizens, as well as in their connection with the duties to the needy, worthy brother, his wife, widow and children displayed by such brethren as the subject of this sketch, has confirmed this belief in the strongest and most firm manner.

Mr. William K. Forsyth was born in Cumberland county, England, on the 11th of December, 1848, and was educated in private schools in his native country. There he learned the drug trade and has since engaged in that line of business as a life work. In 1868 he bade adieu to friends and native land, having resolved to seek a home beyond the Atlantic and on landing in New York city he came direct to Chicago where he soon secured a good position as a salesman in a drug store where he remained until 1880. In that year he embarked in business on his own account, at the corner of Wabash Avenue and Twenty-second Street, where he remained for several years. He then removed to his present location at 3100 State street where he has a fine establishment, elegantly fitted up with first-class modern appointments and has the respect of all in the trade.

On November 25th, 1870, Bro. Forsyth was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Dearborn Lodge, No. 310, A. F. & A. M., in the City of Chicago. June 23rd, 1873, he was exalted a R. A. M. in LaFayette Chapter, No. 2, and in the same body Jan. 7th, 1877, he received the degrees of R. & S. M. In Chicago Commandery, No. 19, March 6th, 1876, he was created a Knight Templar. He was Master of the above Lodge four years, High Priest of the chapter and T. I. M. of Palestine Council.

Having united in the formation of Chevalier Bayard Commandery, No. 52, and served during several official stations, he became Commander in 1888. He was for ten years the D. D. Grand Master of the first Masonic District of Illinois in which position he gained well deserved distinction as a promoter of the very best interests of the great principles of our Institution. He came into the line of officers in this Grand Council as Grand C. G. in 1886 and was elected Grand Master in 1889. As a P. G. Master he has faithfully and zealously served our Cryptic Rite, as he has all the various bodies of which he is a most worthy member.

Our beloved Companion was married to Miss Anna Robinson, a native of Cumberland county, England, in 1874, who died in 1890. Three daughters were born to them, one of whom is married, the others forming his household.



SAMUEL J. LE FEVRE.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1891.

GEORGE W. WARVELLE.

Past Grand Master 1890.



GEORGE W. WARVELLE, one of the prominent jurists and attorneys of Chicago, and one of the best known Masons in the State of Illinois, is a native of Kenosha, Wis., born May 3, 1852, of English and Irish ancestry; received an academical education in the schools of his native city, and at the age of nineteen years entered the office of Hon. J. V. Quarles, of Kenosha, and commenced the study of law. The succeeding seven years he spent in preparatory study at his home and at Chicago, and in 1876 was admitted to practice by the courts of Wisconsin, and ever since he has devoted his time and energies to his profession, succeeding in building up a large and remunerative practice. In 1881, realizing that his abilities demanded a larger field of work, he removed to the city of Chicago, where he has since resided. While engaging in general practice he has given special attention to the law of real estate, upon which he is now an authority, and has appeared as counsel in a number of celebrated real estate cases.

Developing in early life a high degree of literary taste and ability, he has naturally taken much pleasure in giving these faculties considerable scope. Among his other published works may be mentioned a treatise on "Abstracts of Title" (1883), a treatise on the law of "Vendor and Purchaser" (1890), both of which have had a large sale and passed to second editions; an elementary work for the use of students on "The Principles of Real Property" (1896), and later (1902) a series of "Essays in Legal Ethics." The last mentioned works have been received with special favor by legal educators and are now used as text-books in many of the leading law schools of the country. Comp. Warvelle has also been connected, as contributor and otherwise, with the staff of several of the leading law journals. In recognition of his abilities in the line of authorship, etc., he has received from St. Ignatius College, of Chicago, the academic degree of Doctor of Laws (LL. D.). In 1896 he received the appointment of Dean of the Chicago Law School, a position which he filled with signal ability for the five years then next ensuing, but which his professional duties finally compelled him to resign.

In 1877 Comp. Warvelle united his destinies with those of Miss Lydia Bangs, of Kenosha, Wis., and they now have five children.

In respect to the fraternal orders there are many interesting details to relate, but only the main outline is given here. Comp. Warvelle was initiated into the mysteries of Masonry in Covenant Lodge, No. 526, in Chicago, in February, 1875, and since then, by successive gradation, has

advanced through all the bodies of the York and Scottish Rites, rounding out his Masonic career in 1888 when he was crowned with the thirty-third and last degree by the Supreme Council A. A. S. R. for the Northern Jurisdiction. He has been honored with many official stations by the craft, being elected the presiding officer in all of the bodies of both the York and Scottish Rites, as well as in a number of the Grand bodies of the State. He has acquired an extended reputation as a writer on Masonic history and jurisprudence, having made a number of valuable contributions to the Masonic press on these subjects, which are deservedly held in high esteem. He has one of the largest and finest private libraries in the city, in all departments of literature, and in addition has made an extensive collection of works on Freemasonry and cognate subjects. This latter library, embracing upward of five thousand titles, is now under the control and auspices of Oriental Consistory of Chicago.

In the benevolent and charitable work of the Fraternity he has always been active. He was one of the promoters of the old Masonic Board of Relief of Chicago; was one of the founders, and for the past eighteen years a trustee of the Illinois Masonic Orphans' Home, and is the president of the Illinois Masonic Home for the Aged.

In civil life he has avoided "politics" and refused all offers of political preferment, believing that for him the post of honor is a private station. He is a member of the American Bar Association and a number of other learned societies; is active in social affairs, belonging to several of the prominent city clubs, and in religion is identified with the Protestant Episcopal Church (high). His political views are an unknown quantity. He says he has such, but this is sometimes doubted.



MARSHALL U. TRIMBLE.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1892.

SAMUEL J. LEFEVRE.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1891.



LL. Companion LeFevre was born at Little York, Ohio, April 16th, 1841. He has resided at Gibson City, Ill., for several years where he is engaged in the coal business and has the respect and esteem of the community in which he resides as an active, honorable business man and a representative public spirited citizen. He served as a volunteer soldier and non-commissioned officer in Company K, 76th Illinois Infantry, and bears the scars of honorable wounds received while in service. His religious faith is that of the Universalist church.

He was made a Master Mason in Gibson Lodge, No. 733, May 10th, 1875, and a Royal Arch Mason, March 14, 1879, in Ford Chapter, No. 113, Paxton and received the Orders of Knighthood in Mt. Olivet Commandery, No. 38, K. T., at the same place. In December, 1887, he passed the circle in Gibson Council, No. 72, R. & S. M., at Gibson City. His present affiliation is at Gibson, in Lodge, Chapter and Council and in the Commandery at Paxton. His Masonic record is: In Craft Masonry he has served his Lodge as Master three years and the Grand Lodge as D. D. Grand Master four years. In Capitular Masonry for twenty years as High Priest and one year as Eminent Commander of Mt. Olivet Commandery, No. 38, K. T. Ten years as T. I. Master of Gibson Council, R. & S. M. Such service as the above has brought him in contact with the many varied phases of our institution and in all of them he has proved worthy and well qualified, having discharged the duties of official responsibility in a manner to gain the commendation and approval of his brethren. In this Grand Council at the assembly of 1888 he was appointed Grand Marshall and his faithful discharge of Masonic duties gained him well deserved promotion until he was elected Grand Master at the annual in 1891.

Since his service in that position he has been a zealous and useful member of committees and sustains an enviable reputation in our Grand Council as an influential and careful adviser on matters pertaining to the great Fraternity in which he has been so prominent, so faithful and so distinguished a member.

"Work while yet the daylight shines,
 Man of strength and will;
 Never does the streamlet glide
 Useless by the mill.
 Wait not till to-morrow's sun
 Beams upon the way;
 All that thou canst call thine own
 Lies in thy today.
 Power, intellect, and health
 May not, cannot last;
 'The mill will never grind
 With the water that has passed.'"

MARSHALL U. TRIMBLE.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1892.



WHEN his professional duties will permit him to attend our annual assemblies, none are more welcome than this ever zealous and earnest companion.

He was born in Princeton, Ill., where he now resides, September 25th, 1847, and where he is actively engaged in the practice of his profession as Attorney-at-Law. That he commands the respect of the citizens at his home is evident from his having served as State's Attorney of Bureau County, Alderman of the city and Director in High School Board for many years.

On the 18th day of October, 1870, Princeton Lodge, No. 587, A. F. & A. M. conferred the degree of Master Mason on him, in which he has ever been an active and effectual worker and serving it as W. M. In the Grand Lodge he has filled the position of D. D. Grand Master of the 10th District. March 3d, 1881, he became a Royal Arch Mason in Princeton Chapter, No. 28, and as High Priest and in other offices has always displayed the same energy and effectiveness. He received the Order of the Temple in Temple Commandery, No. 20, K. T., January 5th, 1882, where he has continually been found one of the best promoters as Eminent Commander and otherwise of the principles of Christian Knighthood. In the Cryptic Rite he passed the Circle, December 8th, 1883, in Orion Council, No. 8, since which time much of his energy and zeal has been given to the interests of our works, not only as T. I. M. of that council, but as one always ready to fill any or all positions required. At the annual assembly of this Grand Council, 1889, he was promoted to the position of Grand Captain of the Guard and served faithfully and well through the official chairs to that of Grand Master in 1892.

A good citizen, faithful official and a Christian gentleman who has the respect of all.

"I live for those who love me,
For those who know me true;
For the heaven that smiles above me,
And awaits my spirit, too;
For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the wrongs that need resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that I can do."



FREDERIC C. WINSLOW.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1893.

FREDERIC C. WINSLOW.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1893.



DEPARTED this life on the 10th day of October, A. D. 1901.

Companion Winslow served as Grand Master of this Grand Council during the year A. D. 1894.

He was born October 6, 1850, at Cuyler, Cortland County, New York, of New England parentage. He came to Illinois in 1855. He graduated from Northwestern University in the class of 1870; took up the study of medicine and graduated from the medical department of the same University in the class of 1874, and in 1875 from the Cook County Hospital of Chicago; positions which are obtained by competitive examinations open to the world. At the conclusion of a term of service in the County Hospital, he was appointed to a medical position in the Illinois Central Hospital for the Insane, at Jacksonville, Illinois, and has spent the most of his professional life in the study and treatment of nervous and mental diseases, both in America and Europe. Passing through the various subordinate grades, he was appointed Superintendent of the above named Insane Asylum on April 1, 1897. He had recently been appointed by Governor Yates to take charge of the Asylum for the incurable insane now being erected at Bartonville, near Peoria.

He was married in 1881 to Frances Wilkinson Rockwell of Jacksonville, who died in 1898. He leaves two sons surviving him.

His Masonic career began in 1881, when he was raised to the Sublime degree in Moses R. Thompson Lodge at Freeport. Became W. M. of this Lodge the same year; in 1886 was exalted to the August degree in Jacksonville Chapter, No. 3. He was elected High Priest the following year; in 1888 was elected G. M. First Veil in Grand R. A. Chapter of Illinois, and was elected Grand High Priest in 1896. He was M. Ill. Grand Master of the Grand Council of Illinois in 1893-4, and, at the time of his death, was the Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois.

Companion Winslow's death was very sudden, thus reminding us that in the midst of life we are in death. When we think our greatness still aspiring, we fall, like Autumn leaves, to enrich our Mother Earth.

"How fast they fall—those we have known—

As leaves from Autumn branches blown,

So quickly sear.

Yes, one by one they drop away,

As withered leaves they fall and stray

And disappear."

Obituary in Grand Council, 1901.

ALFRED M. WERNER.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1894.



It is with the greatest sorrow that your committee reports the death of our beloved Companion, Alfred M. Werner, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of this Grand Council, who died at his home in the City of Decatur, Ill., on Sunday, June 10, 1900.

Our Most Illustrious Companion was born at Shippenburg, Pa., on November 6, 1836. He attended the public schools there and when about fourteen years of age removed to Eaton, Ohio, where he learned the printer's trade in the office of the Eaton Democrat. He came to Illinois in 1861, engaging for a time in the newspaper business and in the marble cutting business. He accepted a position as agent for the American Express Company in 1869 and continued in the employment of this company until the time of his death.

Comp. Werner was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in DeWitt Lodge, No. 84, of Clinton, 1867; exalted to the August degree of a Royal Arch Mason, Goodbrake Chapter, No. 59, in 1870. Removing to Decatur in 1874, he transferred his membership to Macon Lodge, No. 8, and Macon Chapter, No. 21. He was greeted as a Select Master in Decatur Council, No. 16, and created a Knight Templar in Beaumanoir Commandery, No. 9. In his Chapter and Council, Companion Werner held the offices of High Priest and Thrice Illustrious Master for many years. In the grand bodies of Illinois, our Companion obtained high preferment. In 1894 he was unanimously elected Most Illustrious Grand Master. He was representative of the Grand Council of Pennsylvania near the Grand Council of Illinois since 1894.

The Grand Chapter of this State recognized his ability and in 1899 elected him Grand Master of the First Veil, which position he held at the time of his death.

He was buried with Masonic honors at Decatur on June 12, in the presence of many sorrowing relatives, friends and members of the craft.

All who knew Comp. Werner can, without reserve, testify to his many excellent qualities. And as your Committee reflect upon his Masonic life, we are most impressed with the zeal and activity which he ever displayed in his labors for the Council degrees. Though quiet and unassuming, his efforts were always well directed for the accomplishment of good results. If we remember rightly, it was at his suggestion, and largely through his efforts, that our present custom of holding our annual Mass Conventions of Royal and Select Masters was inaugurated and the purposes thereof, in some measure at least, successfully accomplished. Companion Werner was a Royal and Select Master, not only in name, but was one who exemplified our beautiful teachings in his daily life with wonderful fidelity; but to him, as it must soon to us all, the night came when he was worn out with toil and could no longer work. (Obituary report in Grand Council, 1900.)



ALFRED M. WERNER.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1894.

MARCUS M. LORD.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1895.

THIS prominent member of the Masonic Fraternity was born at Stowe, Vermont, April 17, 1843, and was made a Mason in Meridian Sun Lodge, No. 20, in that State in March, 1865. After removing to Illinois he joined Chenoa Chapter, No. 143, R. A. M., in November, 1885, and received the Cryptic degrees March 18, 1889, in Chenoa Council, R. & S. M., while it was under dispensation. He received the order of Knight Templar, November 30, 1893, in St. Paul Commandery, No. 34, at Fairbury, Ill.

Having affiliated with Chenoa Lodge, No. 292, A. F. & A. M., he served it as Worshipful Master, also as High Priest of Chenoa Chapter and Thrice Illustrious Master of the Council at the same place. During the year 1901 he was Commander of St. Paul Commandery at Fairbury.

He entered the official line in Grand Council in 1891 as Grand Marshal and served as Grand Conductor, Grand P. C. W., Deputy and Grand Master. He then became Grand Lecturer of the Grand Council in which place he is yet carrying forward the work of the Cryptic Rite in a most energetic and efficient manner. It was his great activity in Council work in the State perhaps, more than anything else, that made him a prominent candidate for official honors in our Grand Chapter, R. A. M., in which he was elected Grand Master of the First Veil at the annual Convocation October, 1897, and where he now holds the position of Grand Captain of the Host.

Companion Lord is a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite since November, 1895, in Peoria Consistory, in which body he is showing the same energy and zeal that he has so effectually displayed in other bodies of the Fraternity.

In civil life he has filled the office of Postmaster and Justice of the Peace as well as being an Officer in our State Militia.

At his home in Chenoa he is engaged in the manufacturing business and is a prominent and active promoter of all that tends toward the building up and betterment of the business interests and welfare of the City of Chenoa.

GEORGE M. GROSS.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1896.



FOR nineteen years this gentleman has been a member of the Masonic fraternity and during all that period has been most deeply interested in the workings of the order and its growth and the promulgation of its principles. He was made a Mason in Dearborn Lodge on the 19th of April, 1883, and has filled all the chairs save that of Senior Deacon. He served as Worshipful Master in 1888 and proved a most acceptable presiding officer. He was exalted to the august degree of Royal Arch Mason in LaFayette Chapter, No. 2, in June, 1883, and therein has been honored with nearly all of its official positions, serving in the capacity of High Priest in 1891. He was chosen a member of Palestine Council, No. 66, R. & S. M., October 3, 1883—in fact became one of its charter members and in 1889 he served as Thrice Illustrious Master. At the assembly in 1896 he was elected Grand Master of this Grand Council. He received the Ineffable degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Oriental Consistory in 1884 and became a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in 1893.

Mr. Gross is best known by his devotion to the craft. His zeal for and devotion to Masonry in all its branches and for all its principles is one of the strong elements of his character and its principles have largely swayed his conduct to his fellow-men. He is thoroughly in sympathy with the practical workings of Masonry, believing in that charity which quietly and unostentatiously extends the hand of aid for the reason that all men are brothers and living up to the full requirements of the fraternity in every particular.

Mr. Gross was born in Chicago, August 6, 1846, and is a son of John L. Gross, a native of Germany, who came to America in 1837.

Comp. Gross was married in 1873 to Miss Elizabeth C. Miner, a native of New York city, who died in 1879, leaving two children—George R. W. and Josephine; but the daughter passed away in 1880. Mr. Gross has again married, his second union being with Miss Charlotte E. Olmstead, a native of Ohio.

"If the deed be worth the doing,
Do it well; as in God's sight.
What thy busy hand here findeth,
Lo, He bids thee do with might.
Work is aye the key of life,
Peace is gained by constant strife."



MARCUS M. LORD.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1895.

SYLVESTER O. SPRING.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1897.



ILL. COMP. SPRING was born in Pittsfield, Illinois, January 30, 1850. On November 28, 1878, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna F. Arenz, of Beardstown, Illinois, and they have had two children, one of whom, Marie L., is a recent graduate of the High School of Peoria.

Comp. Spring, who has been one of the most prominent factors in the growth and advancement of Masonry in Illinois, became a member of Cass Lodge, No. 23, of Beardstown, Illinois, December 10, 1872, and was afterward elected Worshipful Master. Later he was dimitted and joined Temple Lodge, No. 46, of Peoria. He was exalted to the august degree of the Holy Royal Arch in Clarke Chapter, No. 29, of Beardstown, February 8, 1873; was dimitted and joined Peoria Chapter, No. 7, and served as its High Priest. He has attained to eminent distinction in the work of the Chapter, became Representative to the Grand Chapter and was elected Grand Master of the First Veil in the Grand Chapter of Illinois in 1880. From that time he was gradually promoted each year until 1888, when he was elected to the office of Grand High Priest. He took the Council degrees in a Royal Arch Chapter in February, 1878, but is now affiliated with Peoria Council, No. 11, in which he has served as Thrice Illustrious Master. In 1898 he was Grand Master of the Grand Council of this State. He was constituted, created and dubbed a Knight Templar in Hospitaler Commandery, No. 31, of Jacksonville, Illinois, September 23, 1873, but is now one of the followers of the beauseant in Peoria Commandery, No. 3, and was honored by the Knights of that organization, who chose him as their Eminent Commander in 1885 and 1886. In 1892 he was elected Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

He received the grades and orders in Scottish Rite Masonry in Peoria Consistory, October 11, 1888, and was proclaimed a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. At present he is Commander-in-Chief of Peoria Consistory. He was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33d degree, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, September 19, 1893, and was crowned an Active Member therein on September 19, 1899. In 1880 he presided as Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Council of Illinois, Red Cross Knights of Constantine, and was created a Knight of the Grand Cross, October 25, 1895.

Companion Spring is among the most prominent business men of the City of Peoria as he is also among the leading men in the political affairs of his party. A good man, a good citizen, a good husband, father and Freemason is certainly an enviable record.

WILLIAM L. MILLIGAN.

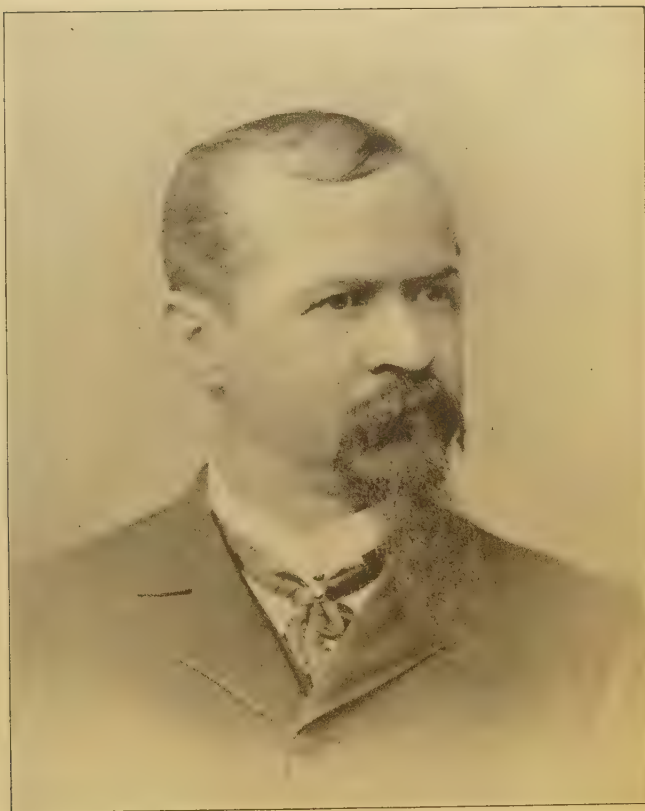
M. Ill. Grand Master, 1898.



AS born of Scotch-Irish parentage in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, September 16, 1849. At the age of four years he came with his parents to Ottawa, Illinois, where he attended the public schools until fifteen years of age, when, owing to his delicate health, his father was obliged to take him from school and moved to his farm on the Vermillion river. In December, 1877, Comp. Milligan was united in marriage to Miss Louise Eichelberger, and three sons and five daughters have been born to them, all of whom are bright and intelligent and the joy and pride of their parents. He moved to Ottawa in 1882 and his father, W. R. Milligan, having been elected sheriff of La Salle county, he accepted the position of first deputy, which he filled during the four years of his father's administration. He is at present in the employ of the Milwaukee Harvester Company. His home is in Ottawa, Illinois.

Comp. Milligan's Masonic life began in 1879 while yet on the farm, and his devotion and study of Masonry has caused him to be one of the best known and highly honored Masons in Illinois. He has always been an industrious and enthusiastic Mason and the result of his unabated labors is the present prosperous condition of the local bodies in Ottawa. Comp. Milligan was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason October 13, 1879, in Occidental Lodge, No. 40; was exalted to the august degree of Royal Arch Mason December 17th of the same year in Shabbona Chapter, No. 37, R. A. M., and passed the circle of perfection in Cryptic Masonry March 2, 1881; created a Knight Templar and Knight of Malta April 28, 1881, in Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, K. T., and attained the degree of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret in Oriental Consistory, Valley of Chicago, October 7, 1881, and in recognition of his faithful and meritorious services in the order, was crowned Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33d and last degree, at Providence, Rhode Island, September 20, 1887.

He was Worshipful Master of Occidental Lodge, No. 40, from 1884 to 1886 inclusive. High Priest of Shabbona Chapter, No. 37, R. A. M., from 1881 to 1887 inclusive. Thrice Illustrious Master of Oriental Council, No. 63, R. and S. M., from 1883 to 1887 inclusive. Eminent Commander of Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, K. T., during the years 1886-87-91-92; was Val. Grand Almoner of Chicago Council, Princes of Jerusalem, in 1886. District Deputy Grand Master of the Ninth Masonic District of Illinois 1886, 1887, 1888, 1896 and 1897; was member of the Board of Trustees of the



GEORGE M. GROSS.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1896.

Illinois Masonic Orphans' Home from 1886 to 1891 inclusive, and holds life membership certificate No. 1, and was Second Vice-President of the Illinois Masonic Home for the Aged Freemasons for several years. He has represented the Grand Lodge of South Australia near the Grand Lodge of Illinois since 1887, with the honorary rank of Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of South Australia conferred on him October 21, 1886, by that Grand Body. He is also the Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Quebec and the Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters of Tennessee and Indian Territory. He takes considerable pride in holding a certificate of honorary membership in Fortitude Lodge, No. 47, A. F. and A. M., La Grange, Ky. Mr. Milligan was Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in 1895 and Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters of Illinois, in 1899.

FREDERICK EMIL HOBERG.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1899.



HIS companion was born in Peru, Illinois, December 29, 1862, where he now resides.

He began life in commercial business at the age of fifteen years and after several years' experience therein he commenced the study of law and was admitted to the bar September 22, 1887. Soon thereafter he opened an office in Peru and has ever since been successfully engaged in the practice of that profession.

He has served for a number of years as City Clerk, City Attorney and member of the Board of Education in the City of Peru, besides filling many township offices, in all of which he has proved to be an upright, useful and efficient public official and citizen.

In 1888 he was united in marriage with Miss Anna R. Knapp and to them has come an interesting and happy family of five children.

He is an adherent to the Lutheran Evangelical religious faith and is Democratic in politics.

His Masonic career began in St. John's Lodge, No. 13, at Peru, where he received the Craft degrees and was made a Master Mason, March 26, 1884. Of that lodge he is a Past Master and is also a D. D. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

He was exalted to the R. A. degree April 22, 1884, in Peru Chapter, No. 60, R. A. M., of which he is a Past High Priest, having been anointed in the Order of High Priesthood October 29, 1891.

At the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Illinois October, 1900, he was elected Grand Master of the Second Veil and at the annual in 1901 he was promoted to the Third Veil.

He received the degrees of Royal and Select Master in Oriental Council, No. 63, at Ottawa, Ill., in 1887, and is now a member of Peru Council, No. 12, in which he has served as T. I. Master and is at present the Recorder.

At the annual session of Grand Council, R. & S. M., of 1894 he was appointed Grand Marshal, serving in various chairs until 1899 when he was elected M. Ill. Grand Master. After one year in the Grand East, he became a member of Committee on Jurisprudence where his Masonic and legal acquirements have proved of excellent service to the Grand Council.

Companion Hoberg received the Orders of Knighthood in St. John Commandery, No. 26, K. T., at Peru, wherein he has been an active participant ever since, having been Eminent Commander and is at present its Recorder.

In the prime of life, with excellent abilities, zealous and faithful in all the duties that he undertakes and having the respect, regard and confidence of all who know him, we may confidently expect that he will continue for many years to fill an important place in the Masonic affairs of this Grand Jurisdiction.



SYLVESTER O. SPRING.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1897.

JOHN B. FITHIAN.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1900.



JOHN B. FITHIAN, a prominent member of the Joliet bar and one of the best known citizens of that place, was born at Union Corners, Livingston County, New York, October 26, 1849, and with his father's family went to Iowa in 1857. He attended the public schools until 1862, in that year going to Quincy, Ill. Although a mere lad at the breaking out of the civil war he was anxious to do his part in the defense of the Union and we consequently find him in 1862, a beardless boy of thirteen, enlisted under the stars and stripes and assisting in the sanitary department at Helena, Arkansas, and later at Vicksburg, Mississippi. His record as a soldier was, however, unfortunately cut short by sickness and he was obliged in the summer of 1863, to return home and give up his dreams of becoming a distinguished officer in the army.

He began his business career by learning the trade of printer. In 1873 he went to Joliet and secured a position as guard at the state prison. But his ambition was to accomplish something greater than he had as yet been able to do and he devoted every spare moment to the study of law; and on terminating his service at the state institution, in April, 1876, so well had he improved his opportunities that in the fall of the same year he was admitted to the bar at Ottawa, Illinois. In politics Mr. Fithian has always taken an active part and is a leader in the Republican party; but it is in the Masonic fraternity that he is perhaps best known and in this order he has proven a most devoted and energetic member.

He was made a Master Mason in Matteson Lodge, No. 175, in the year 1875 and was W. M. for several years and is now its Secretary. He is a R. A. M. in Joliet Chapter, No. 27, where his services have been in constant demand since his exaltation in 1875. In Joliet Council, R. & S. M., he has served two years as T. I. M. Joliet Commandery called him to the East to preside for three terms as Em. Commander and he is now its Recorder. In the Grand Lodge of Illinois he has been D. D. Grand Master several terms and in 1896 our Grand Council recognized his valuable services in selecting him as Grand Marshal. He has passed through the line of official positions, having been elected Grand Master in 1900.

He was married in 1878 to Miss Edna C. Whitaker and has had three children, one, a daughter, alone surviving.

WILLIAM B. CARLOCK.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1901.



COMPANION CARLOCK was born March 15, 1842, in Woodford County, Illinois. He was reared on a farm, received his early education in the common schools and taught district schools with marked success. He entered upon his collegiate course at the age of twenty years, and graduated with the highest honors of his class at Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois, June, 1867.

He completed the full law course in the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in the Spring of 1869 and was admitted to practice in 1870. His advance in his profession has been rapid, marked with honesty, ability and energy. He is a good German scholar with high attainments as a German speaker, having acquired that language at the age of twenty-five years.

He was married in 1870 to Miss Missouri McCart and to them two promising sons have been given, both now grown to manhood.

In religion Comp. Carlock is a pronounced Unitarian, having been active in official connection with that Church at Bloomington.

As a staunch member of the Democratic party he is a man of influence in its ranks and with the people of that faith.

Having thus briefly touched on some of the more salient points in his history, we turn to that part of his life which has to do with Free Masonry.

He received the first three degrees in Mozart (German) Lodge, No. 656, at Bloomington, having been raised to the third degree September 18, 1888. He subsequently served the Lodge as Master for two terms and has the credit of having conferred the degrees in the German standard work of the Grand Lodge of Illinois with distinguished ability.

The capitular degrees were conferred on him in Bloomington Chapter, No. 26, R. A. M., over which body he has presided for two years as High Priest, having been anointed in the Order of the High Priesthood October 24, 1895.

On April 20, 1891, he was greeted a Select Master in Chenoa Council, No. 75, R. & S. M., and subsequently became a member of Bloomington Council, No. 43, of which body he has been a most efficient and active member. For four years he presided as its T. I. M.

On October 27, 1897, he was appointed Grand Marshal in the Grand Council of this State and has passed the several chairs until now he is presiding in the Grand East thereof.

He is a Past Commander of DeMolay Commandery, No. 24, K. T., where he holds membership and is a member of Peoria Consistory, S. P. R. S., 32d degree.



WILLIAM L. MILLIGAN.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1898.

He has served several years as Deputy Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Illinois and was recognized as a correct and energetic worker in that position, as he has always been in all official positions that he has accepted.

On May 29, 1895, he became a member of Mohammed Temple, A. A. O. N., of the Mystic Shrine at Peoria.

In February, 1891, he became an interested member of the O. E. S. and soon after was at the head of the Chapter at Bloomington, where his efficiency was recognized in the Grand Chapter of the Order, and he was rapidly promoted in office until October 7, 1897, when he was elected Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Illinois.

It may well be said of him that his has been an active, efficient, painstaking and useful career in the busy affairs of life and of our societies.

JOHN C. HALLENBECK.

M. Ill. Grand Master, 1902.



OMP. HALLENBECK'S connection with Masonry has been a prominent one and he has always followed to the best of his ability the principles incorporated in the laws of the fraternity. He became an Entered Apprentice and received the Fellow-craft degree in Auburn Park Lodge, No. 789, and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in the same Lodge February 4, 1892. On September 18, 1892, he was exalted to the august degree of Royal Arch Mason in Auburn Park Chapter, No. 201, and on November 19, 1892, he was created a Knight in Englewood Commandery, No. 59; January, 1895, he was made a member of Temple Council, No. 65, R. & S. M. He has the distinction of being a charter and life member of both Normal Park Chapter, No. 210, R. A. M., and Imperial Council, No. 85, R. & S. M., and in the former held the office of High Priest, while in the Council (which he founded) he is Past Thrice Illustrious Master. Comp. Hallenbeck is at the present time affiliated with Normal Park Lodge, No. 797, of which he is a Past Master; Normal Park Chapter, No. 210; Imperial Council, No. 85, and Englewood Commandery, No. 59.

His brilliant record in Imperial Council brought him prominently before the Grand Council, where he was appointed Grand Marshal in 1898, since which period he has been promoted through the line until the present, when he is presiding in the Grand East. He has also received well deserved consideration in the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois, where he holds office as Grand Master of the First Veil.

Comp. Hallenbeck was born in New York city, October 17, 1849. He remained there until he was nine years old, when he was brought to Chicago by his parents and secured a good common school education in the institutions of this city, after which he entered into a business career and obtained a position in a book and stationery establishment with which he remained for fifteen years. In 1876 he decided to start in business for himself, which he did as a manufacturer's agent, and this he has successfully continued from that time. He is an energetic man of a progressive nature and is well thought of by all who come in contact with him in a business way, as well as socially.

On December 10, 1873, Mr. Hallenbeck was united in bonds of holy wedlock with Miss Caroline W. Merrill, who was born in Sandusky, Ohio, and five children have been born to them—three of whom survive—Frank, May and Harry. Frank became a Master Mason March 12, 1896.



FREDERICK E. HOBERG.

M. Ill. Grand Master 1899.

JOHN C. SMITH.

Grand Treasurer 1889 to date.



T seems almost unnecessary to say anything to the Companions of Illinois regarding this well known and widely distinguished craftsman and yet it is but proper that one who has been so long and so intimately connected with this Rite should have a page in our history.

He was born in Philadelphia, Penn., Feb. 13, 1832. Came to this State in 1854, settling in Galena. Married in March, 1856. he resided in that city until 1862, when he enlisted in the Ninety-sixth Regiment, Ill. Vol. Infantry, as a private. He served during the war and was promoted until he reached the grade of Brigadier General. He has served as Chief Grain Inspector, State Treasurer and Lieutenant Governor of this State.

Raised M. M. May 21, 1859; W. M. of Miners Lodge, No. 273, five years. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, 1887-1888. Honorary Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Egypt.

Exalted to R. A. M. March 15, 1860, and was H. P. of Jo Daviess Chapter, No. 51, seven years. Passed the Circle, February 19, 1873, and has been T. I. M. of Ely S. Parker Council, R. & S. M. since its organization in 1873. Knighted a Templar April 26, 1871. Founder and Em. Commander of Galena Commandery, No. 40, 1871-2-3-4. Elected Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Illinois, 1880. Member since 1872, St. Johns Conclave, No. 1, Red Cross of Constantine. He is Past Sov., Past Grand Sov., and Grand Treasurer in Grand Imperial Council of Illinois, also M. E. Grand Sov. Sup. Grand Chapter, Grand Cross, U. S. A.

Created a S. P. R. S., thirty-second degree in A. A. S. Rite at Freeport, Illinois, May 28, 1873. Received the thirty-third degree August 19, 1875, and was crowned an Active Member of the Northern Supreme Council September 27, 1883, of which body he is now Ill. Grand Minister of State.

In addition to the above he is an honorary member of some forty or more Lodges, Chapters, Commanderies, Councils, Veteran Associations, as well as being the Venerable Chief since 1887 of the Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois.

He is also the Grand Representative of a number of Grand Lodges, Grand Chapters, Grand Councils, Grand Commanderies and Supreme Councils of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

HARMON G. REYNOLDS.

Grand Recorder, 1853-1868.



HIS Companion, so long a conspicuous figure in Illinois Masonry, died in the State of Kansas, December 31, 1891, at the ripe age of 81 years. The life of this distinguished Mason was marked by great industry and sincerity of purpose. As is well known, he was actively and closely identified with the progress, jurisprudence and history of Freemasonry in Illinois for more than a quarter of a century. He was Secretary of this Grand Chapter during an unbroken period of seventeen years. The deceased Companion was a man of great executive ability and tireless energy. These qualities were recognized and appreciated by the Craft of our State, and were rewarded by the bestowal upon him, during many years of his active life, of the highest fraternal consideration. Indeed, in his absence from the field of his labors he was affectionately remembered by his brothers in Illinois. Although our venerable Companion has gone to his eternal rest, his name and fame are indelibly interwoven in the literature and growth of Freemasonry in Illinois. The activities of Companion Reynolds in the Masonic vineyard ceased a number of years since upon his removal to a distant State, where, at the age of more than four score years, he finally laid down his working tools and, let us hope, entered into the enjoyment of that bliss, to be found in heaven, "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary find rest." (Obituary in Grand Chapter, 1892.)

GRAND LODGE SESSION, 1851.

"Among the representatives present was Harmon G. Reynolds, of Knoxville. Bro. Reynolds was appointed Secretary pro tem., and at the election was chosen as the permanent officer. For seventeen years then succeeding, or until 1868, Bro. Reynolds was annually elected Grand Secretary and finally relinquished the office only to become Grand Master. No other one man has ever filled so large a space in the history of Illinois Freemasonry, nor has any one ever wielded so great a power. The estimates of his character vary greatly, according to the point of view, but it must be conceded that he brought to the office of Grand Secretary the first application of orderly and business-like methods, and that his administration of the affairs was characterized by signal ability."—Warvelle's Masonic History.

A sketch of him in 1858 by M. W. Bro. Rob Morris' contains the following:

"Harmon G. Reynolds, Grand Secretary of Illinois, was born in Moreau, Saratoga county, New York, Dec. 21, 1810. He was reared and educated



JOHN B. FITHIAN.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1900.

in Berlin, Washington county, Vermont, and admitted to the bar at Montpelier, in that State, November, 1836. In July of the next year he removed to Rock Island county, Illinois, where he remained for several years. In August, 1839, he was elected Probate Judge of Rock Island county. October 25, the subsequent year, he married Miss Louisa Thompson.

"In January, 1843, he was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason in Warsaw Lodge, No. 23, which commences a career marked with uncommon devotion to those high interests which are cherished in Freemasonry. In October, 1851, he was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Illinois, and has continued ever since to enjoy an annual re-election to the same posts of honor and usefulness. October, 1853, he was elected Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, just then organized, and has filled the post ever since. In August, 1856, he was carried forward through the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite as far as to the Thirty-second in Occidental Sovereign Consistory at Chicago. May 18, 1865, he received the Thirty-third degree.

"Bro. Reynolds has never been without those marks of popular favor which, in this great Republic, accrue so largely and naturally to a man of talent and integrity. In 1847 he was one of the Secretaries of the Constitutional Convention of Illinois; was postmaster at Rock Island for several years, from 1847, and at Knoxville since 1856. Of the House of Representatives of Illinois he was Assistant Clerk in 1849, and State's Attorney of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in 1850. As he had filled the responsible and onerous position of Probate Judge of Rock Island county in 1839, so he was elected to a similar post in Knox county in 1853."

GILBERT WORDSWORTH BARNARD.

Grand Recorder.

BY GEO. W. WARVELLE.



UST as this volume was going to press I discovered the fact that Companion Barnard, to whom had been assigned the duty of preparing the biographical material, had written a sketch of about every one except himself, and that, in lieu of such sketch, he had inserted his "Masonic Record." Now, this is a good thing in its way, but it hardly takes the place of a biography, and believing that this book would be incomplete without some more extended notice of the life of our distinguished brother, I have taken it upon myself to do that which his modesty prevented him from doing.

From a sketch which some years ago appeared in the Chicago newspapers it seems that Brother Barnard was born in Palmyra, New York, June 1, 1834. The same year his father, a farmer by occupation, moved to the new lands of Michigan during the great exodus from the Empire State to that fertile peninsula. On a farm in Jackson County Gilbert was reared to the age of fifteen, when, possessing only such education as he had obtained at the common school, he started for Chicago. Taking passage on the steamer Detroit, of the old Eber B. Ward line from New Buffalo, the terminus of the Michigan Central Railroad, he arrived in Chicago March 31, 1849. Nineteen days before his arrival here, a great flood occurred which carried away all the bridges over the Chicago River, and caused a vast amount of destruction generally. The river and its banks therefore presented a wild scene, and young Barnard viewed it with curiosity. He even thinks yet that it would be impossible to equal that calamity, at least in some of its features, in the accounts of any similar event anywhere in this country. The particulars of it have not faded from the memories of those who witnessed it; and long afterward every old event at or near Chicago was referred to as having occurred "before the flood," or "after the flood," as the case might be, as we now speak of events "before" or "after the war," or "the fire."

Bro. Barnard soon found employment in the store of Deacon John C. Williams, and after a year in that place he changed to the warehouse of Deming & Richmond. (It was Mr. Richmond, of this firm, whose schooner some years later carried the first cargo of grain from Chicago to Liverpool.) In 1846 the first place in the city for the sale of newspapers and periodicals was established by W. W. Danenhower, and in 1852 Bro. Barnard became his chief clerk. This place, for what was then a novel business, was at 123 Lake Street, in a small room in the "Saloon" Building. It was a good place, as the



WILLIAM B. CARLOCK.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1901.

Federal and the State courts held their sessions in that building; and, as stationery was added to the stock in trade, the concern caught the trade of the lawyers. A number of lawyers from the country towns and elsewhere frequently made a convenience of desk and counter in this little salesroom, and there prepared or amended their papers for presentation in court. Among these lawyers was Abraham Lincoln, who was of the same politics as Danenhower, and who made himself perfectly at home there. Bro. Barnard came in time to be on familiar terms with the future great man, and he has laughed at more than one joke that was cut for his benefit alone.

He continued in the news and stationery business as long as Danenhower owned it, and as his employer was both a fireman and a member of a military company, he easily drifted into the same diversions. He began with running the hose-cart of fire engine No. 1, whose house was at the foot of Dearborn Street. Next he ran with Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. At the burning of the Sauganash Hotel in 1851, a dispute arose between the different fire companies that attained the nature of a hand-to-hand fight; and Bro. Barnard shows to this day a scar on his scalp which resulted from a wound he received in the encounter. In 1854 the Hope Hose Company, No. 2, was reorganized, and he was elected secretary; and never since then has he been out of a secretaryship of some society or other. Said he, recently: "I seemed naturally to fall into the secretaryship of about everything I became connected with. I cannot account for it except by referring to the fact that I was such a poor penman, and otherwise entirely unfitted for the post!" The early newspapers speak of Hope Hose Company as being the best company in the West. Its carriage, called the "gold carriage," took the first prize at the world's fair in 1851 at the Crystal Palace at London. Bro. Barnard continued with the company until 1859, and the next year the company sold this carriage to a company in Milwaukee.

The National Guard of Chicago was organized in 1854, and Bro. Barnard, being a member of Company B, was elected a corporal, and he served in that capacity until the company disbanded, some time after the "beer riots" during the mayoral term of Dr. Boone. In that affray he served as special officer, and helped to carry Officer Hunt, who was wounded, off the field, which was the space around the court-house.

Long before the war Bro. Barnard became interested in politics and aided in organizing a young men's Democratic club, designed to assist in carrying on partisan work in Chicago. Senator Douglas obtained for him a position as a clerk in the postoffice, which position he retained under a new postmaster after all the other friends of Douglas in that office had been discharged as the result of a quarrel among politicians, and he was even advanced to the head of the general delivery. In order, however, to be free in 1860 to devote all his time to the political interests of Douglas, he resigned his position in the postoffice, and was sent on many a secret errand in various parts of the State.

In 1861 he returned to his former business of selling books, newspapers and stationery, under John McNally. In 1864 he purchased an interest in a manufacturing concern, and under the firm name of Swain & Barnard it was run successfully for a time, but finally succumbed. Now it was that he

found, in quite a different sphere from the mercantile, his true vocation, namely, that of labor in the great field of Freemasonry. He was made a Master Mason December 7, 1864, in Garden City Lodge. The next night he was appointed Junior Steward, and ever since then he has been in some office or other in the Masonic fraternity. During the years 1866-7 he was Master of his lodge, and for several years he was District Deputy Grand Master. He was given the Royal Arch degree October 2, 1866, in Corinthian Chapter, No. 69; received the cryptic degrees in Siloam Council, No. 53, March 25, 1872, and the Knight Templar degree May 13, 1870, in St. Bernard Commandery, No. 35. The next year he received the thirty-third degree of the Scottish Rite, having received the thirty-second in 1868. He was a member of the first board of examiners of the Grand Lodge for five years, Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge for eight years, and has been Secretary or Recorder of nearly all side issues that were termed Masonic. He has received over three hundred degrees known to the fraternity. He is Past High Priest of Corinthian Chapter, No. 69; Past Eminent Commander of St. Bernard Commandery, No. 35, Knights Templar; Past Commander-in-Chief of Oriental Consistory; Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter; Grand Recorder of the Grand Council and of the Grand Commandery; and Grand Secretary of the Council of Deliberation, S. P. R. S., and various other Masonic bodies in Illinois.

All of the foregoing I glean from the veracious account of the newspaper, and the credit for its compilation belongs to the reporter who wrote it. But there is one phase of Bro. Barnard's life and character the reporter did not get, and that is the position he occupies in the hearts and affections of those who know him. All of his titles and honors, and they are many, sink into insignificance before the one little monosyllable "Gil," the tribute which fraternal affection pays to the kindly old man who for so many years has stood for all that is good in Masonry.



JOHN C. HALLENBECK.
M. Ill. Grand Master 1902.

WILLIAM L. ORR.

Grand Steward 1892 to date.



COMPANION ORR was born at Washington, Pa., March 7, 1832. Deprived of his parents at the age of seven years, he resided on a farm, where he received a common school education, usual for a farmer's boy at that period. At an early age he began the trade of a machinist and engineer. He was employed as such for many years on the Southern rivers and between New Orleans, Havana, Vera Cruz and ports in South America.

In 1854 he settled at Beardstown, Ill. July 1, 1855, he was married to Miss Emma C. Wright, in Carrollton, and in 1856 he removed to Alton, engaged at his trade, where he remained until the outbreak of the war in 1861, when he enlisted for the three-months' service, and then for three years. He was employed on secret service and staff duties until March, 1863, when he was commissioned as engineer in the U. S. navy and served until December, 1865, on several ironclads and monitors on the Mississippi, Tennessee and Red Rivers and in the Gulf of Mexico.

His Masonic career commenced in November, 1862, in Alton Lodge, No. 284, and he was exalted in Alton Chapter, No. 8, in 1864, receiving the degrees of R. & S. M. in Alton Council, No. 3, the same year. In April 1868, he was knighted a Templar in Belvidere Commandery, No. 2. Having removed to Carrollton, he affiliated there in Lodge, Chapter and Council, and assisted in the organization of Hugh de Payens Commandery, No. 29, at that place, of which he was Eminent Commander for five years. While residing there he was High Priest of Carrollton Chapter, No. 77, and in 1875 was elected Grand Master of the Second Veil in Grand Chapter, serving through the line of offices until 1883, when he was promoted to the Grand East. His present Masonic affiliations are in Piasa Lodge, No. 27; Chapter No. 8, Council No. 3, and Comandery No. 2, all at Alton.

In January, 1883, he removed with his family to Chicago, where he now resides, and is engaged in mercantile pursuits. For several years he has been the efficient Grand Steward in our Grand Chapter and Council, and is highly esteemed by all who know him or have official business relations with those bodies or the Grand Commandery of Illinois, of which he is the Grand Captain of the Guard. Holding Honorary memberships in several Chicago bodies and active in the affairs of the Veterans of the Naval service and Grand Army makes him a welcome visitor wherever he is present.

October, 1891, he was appointed and is now Grand Tyler in Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M.

WILLIAM J. A. DELANCEY.

Grand Sentinel 1890 to date.



LL. COMPANION DELANCEY has been so long before the Masonic Fraternity of Illinois that his face is as familiar as a member of one's own family. The degrees were conferred on him in Alpha Lodge, No. 155, and Galesburg Chapter, No. 46, in 1859, at Galesburg, Ill. He passed the Circle in Centralia Council, R. & S. M., in 1866, and in 1867 he was created a K. T. in Cyrene Commandery, No. 23, K. T. at Centralia, and his present affiliations are all at that place. As Master, High Priest, T. I. Master and Eminent Commander, he was distinguished as a master of all the requirements for a presiding officer and delineator of the rituals. For many years he was considered one of the best workers in the office of Principal Sojourner known to the Royal Craft in Illinois. His service as Grand Lecturer and D. D. G. M. in Grand Lodge under Past Grand Masters Gorin, Reynolds and Cregier brought him before the craft in such favorable character as to cause him to be chosen for one of the office bearers through the line to Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge and also as Grand High Priest in 1874.

He was born at Chesterfield, N. H., in 1826, and is a member of the Episcopal Church.

Having served for many years in the revenue and postal service of the United States, of late years he has been practicing his profession as a dentist at his home in Centralia. For several years past he has held the offices of Grand Sentinel in our Grand Chapter and Grand Council, where we trust that his pleasant smile, familiar face and fraternal salutation will meet and greet us for many years to come.

"I live for those who love me,
 For those who know me true;
 For the heaven that smiles above me,
 And awaits my spirit, too;
 For the cause that lacks assistance,
 For the wrongs that need resistance,
 For the future in the distance,
 And the good that I can do."



JOHN C. SMITH.

Ill. Grand Treasurer.

JOHN A. LADD.

Grand P. C. W. 1884-1885.



HIS well-known and esteemed Companion has served the Grand bodies so many years in various official capacities and on committees that he has become a prominent figure not only physically but Masonically. His parents' home was in the State of New York, but his birth occurred while his mother was on a visit in Upper Canada, May 3, 1836.

He received the M. M. degree in Robert Burns Lodge, No. 163, at Newport, Ky., June 19, 1861, and was exalted to the Royal Arch in Olive Branch Chapter, at the same place, February 5, 1863. The degrees of R. & S. M. were conferred in Dixon Council, No. 7, in 1866, and April 2, 1867, he was knighted a Templar in Dixon Commandery, No. 21, at Dixon, Ill. In 1868 he received the degrees of the A. A. S. Rite in the Consistory then located at DeKalb, and now at Freeport, Ill., of which body he is now a member. His other affiliations are at Sterling, Ill., where he has resided since 1865 with his wife and family of four children.

As High Priest, T. I. Master, and Eminent Commander he did good service to the order. He has filled several positions in our Grand Lodge and Grand Council, as well as serving through the line of official chairs in Grand Chapter, of which he was elected Grand High Priest in October, 1884. As master of transportation and Acting Q. M. in the Sixteenth Army Corps during the war of 1861 to 1865 he rendered valuable service to his country.

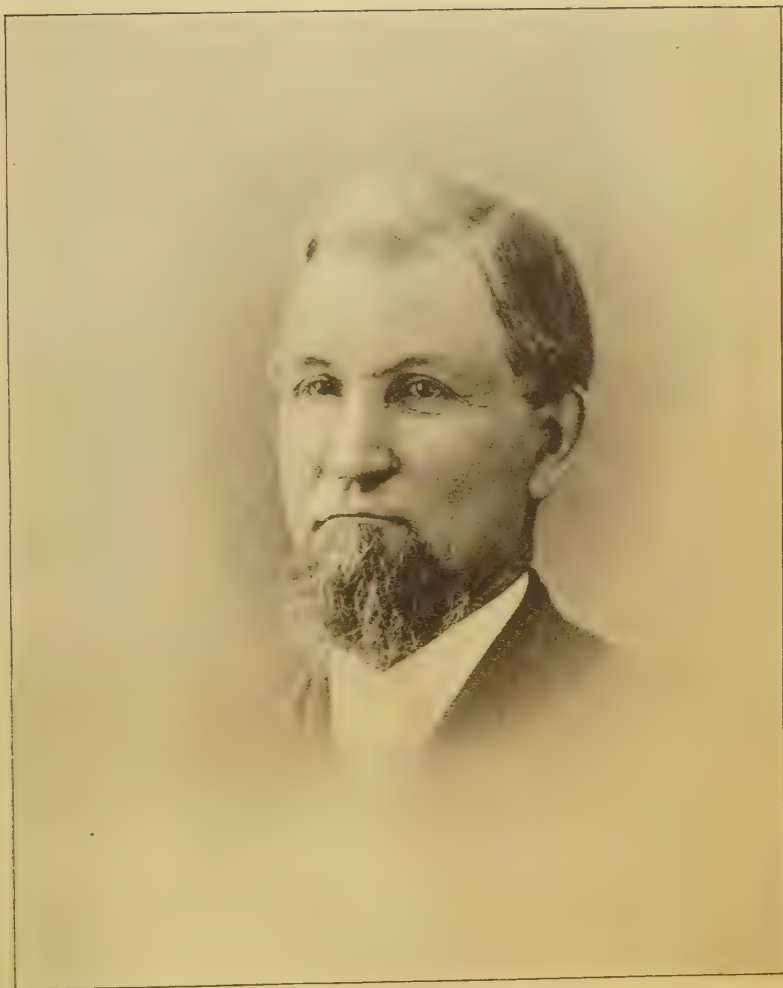
An enthusiastic Freemason, an active business man, a good citizen, genial and pleasant companion, he has a host of warm friends among the craftsmen of Illinois.

"I saw a beam of light;
It shimmered on its way through realm of gloom,
More swift than shuttle in a weaver's loom,
And shone upon my sight.

"I saw a falling tear;
It glistened in the glory of the sun,
Like threads of crystalline reflection spun,
But soon to disappear.

"I saw a speck of white
Far out upon the bosom of the deep,
Like some fair goddess sinking in her sleep
Into the liquid night.

"I saw a falling star;
It shot its golden course along the sky,
But perished in the twinkling of an eye
Within the depths afar."



HARMON G. REYNOLDS.
Ill. Grand Recorder 1853-68.

EXERCISES

AT THE

SEMI-CENTENNIAL BANQUET

The Grand Council, together with its invited guests, assembled in the Columbus Room of De Jonghe's Restaurant, No. 43 Monroe Street, Chicago, Ill., at 7:30 o'clock, on the evening of Wednesday, October 29, 1902, for the purpose of participating in a social banquet in further commemoration of the semi-centenary of its organization. Covers were laid for one hundred and fifty, and all of the seats were occupied. The dinner was served in the usual fine style for which the establishment is noted, while jollity, mirth and good cheer gave additional zest to the viands. The exercises were enlivened by the stirring strains of the regular house orchestra, and the Weber Quartette sang their sweetest songs. Among others, the following were present:

AT THE SPEAKER'S TABLE

Wm. B. Carlock,
Geo. W. Warvelle,
Fred. E. Hoberg,
Geo. M. Moulton,
Wm. H. Mayo,
Wm. K. Forsyth,
Jno. M. Pearson,
Byron C. Hill,
G. M. Gross,

J. C. Hallenbeck,
Nathaniel Bowditch,
Marcus M. Lord,
S. O. Spring,
Chas. Fisher,
S. J. Le Fevre,
Wm. L. Milligan,
R. B. Whitsett,
W. C. F. Reichenbach,

AT THE OTHER TABLES.

L. Alexander,
S. W. Abt,
E. Blackshaw,
R. E. L. Brooks,
R. Bennett,
B. Brown,
T. W. Chittick,
S. F. Connor,

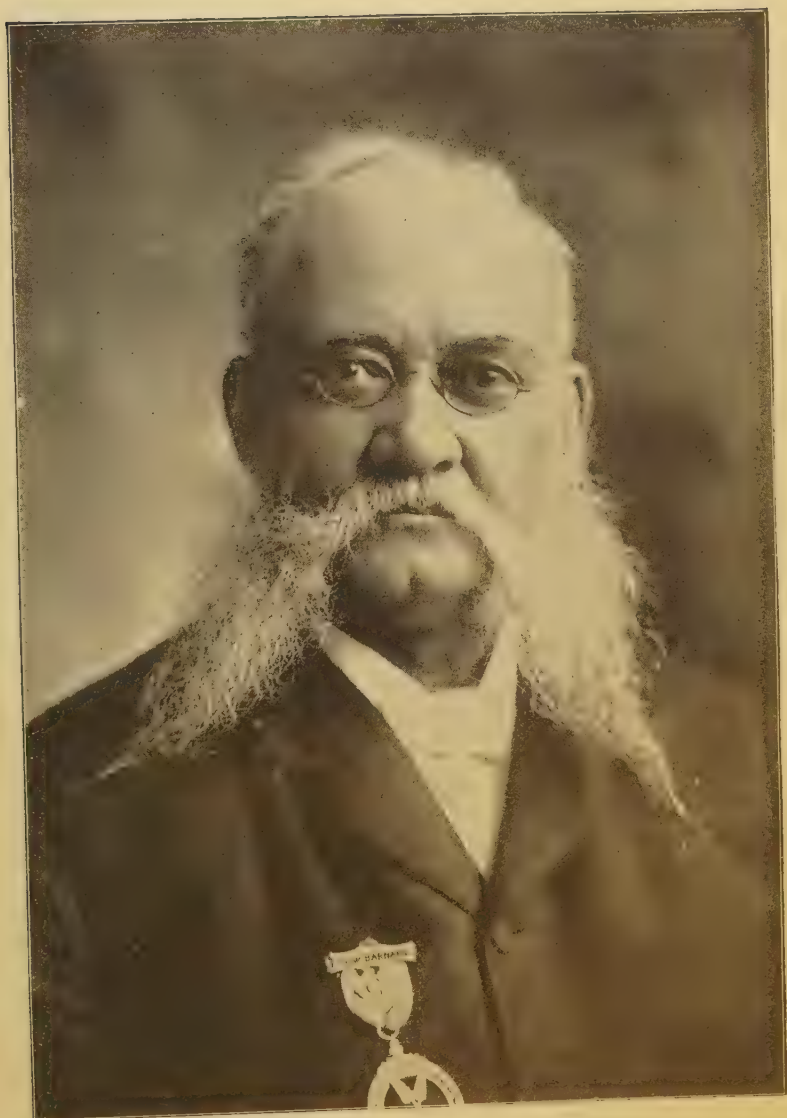
R. D. Kuehner,
C. W. Lee,
Jas. Little,
C. R. Merrill,
G. K. Milliken,
A. W. McLaughlin,
J. N. Pierce,
G. W. Pumphrey,

C. S. Elder,	J. R. Ross,
C. W. Hollandsworth,	L. E. Rockwood,
W. H. Higby,	F. A. Somers,
A. T. Hey,	H. M. Schmoldt,
H. R. Hopkins,	H. F. Sawtell,
F. G. Herriman,	F. J. Shroter,
W. C. Jencks,	W. M. Thexton,
G. F. Keiper,	N. N. E. Woods,
R. L. Leonard,	A. S. Wilderman,
J. A. Ladd,	G. C. Wilkinson,
W. B. Moak,	H. L. Zinser,
W. H. Mooney,	I. Altman,
A. C. McRay,	R. L. Berry,
A. M. Ottman,	C. A. Brasch,
J. C. Pirkey,	E. F. Buck,
E. B. Pellett,	W. G. Brown,
W. J. Roberts,	J. Cronin,
W. E. Skiff,	D. D. Dunkle,
H. Struever, Jr.,	H. Grossman,
F. L. Taylor,	A. A. Harvey,
John Woods,	A. L. Hamilton,
Ed. Watkins,	J. W. Hill,
H. C. Wegehoft,	W. B. Jaynes,
James Walker,	John Killough,
F. H. Austin,	N. N. Lampert,
F. C. Bay,	F. E. Locke,
J. E. Burton,	J. D. Myers,
M. M. Briggs,	Allen Middleton,
F. B. Baird,	W. L. Orr,
W. Blanchard,	W. H. Paul,
R. J. Daly,	W. C. Rood,
C. S. Gurney,	J. E. Ragsdale,
H. T. Hubbard,	A. H. South,
J. H. Huyck,	W. K. Steele,
A. M. Hallowell,	J. Swanson,
J. H. Harris,	L. J. Sears,
B. C. Hill,	A. W. Turner,
L. A. Jackson,	J. W. White.
E. C. Perkins,	

After an invocation by the Grand Chaplain, Ill. Comp. H. R. Hopkins, the companions proceeded to discuss the excellent menu provided for the occasion. When this duty had been fully performed and the covers removed, the assembly was called to order by M. I. Comp. William B. Carlock, the retiring Grand Master, who also acted as Toastmaster during the symposium.

Comp. Carlock spoke as follows:

"Companions: As Grand Master of the Grand Council of the State of Illinois Royal and Select Masters, it affords me genuine pleasure to accord you one and all a most cordial greeting and bid you welcome to these exer-



GIL. W. BARNARD.
III. Grand Recorder Twenty-five years.

cises and festivities, commemorating the Semi-Centennial year of our organization.

"This occasion will no doubt mark the most important event in our history either in the past or for the next fifty years to come, and will only be excelled by the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of our organized existence. But, companions, few of us will be here to witness the importance and joys of that occasion. Perhaps none. If that hero, the guest of honor at this banquet, could only live to witness the scenes then to be enacted, hear the story of Cryptic Masonry then to be told, drink at the fountain of wisdom, marvel at the new ideas in Cryptic growth far in advance of those of the past fifty years, or far behind, as the case may be, and with a heart full of love shake the hands of the young and aged of the craft there assembled, he would be willing to quit his labors on earth and go from hence to eternal refreshment in the Paradise of God. The field is so broad in Cryptic life, and the strange things that have surrounded and baffled us so numerous, that more can be said along the lines of our order than that of any other Masonic institution. Who can realize the mighty forces that have been at work in the civilization of the world for the past fifty years; the wonderful progress in the arts and sciences; useful inventions and discoveries made; and the magic development in the resources of our country, which have brought blessings and comforts to the human race? In fact, we have witnessed such a revolution as has dumbfounded and astonished mankind. Nearly all the material advancement and growth in the United States, either commercial, agricultural, mechanical, educational or otherwise, has taken place in the last half of the nineteenth century. It was nearly one hundred years after Franklin's discovery that Samuel Morse invented and brought into practical use the art of telegraphy. This event occurred about the middle of the last century, and thus was given to and accepted by all peoples the greatest, most wonderful and most useful experiment of all the ages. The climax had not yet been reached, for in quick succession came the cap-sheaf of electrical communication by Cyrus W. Field, viz., telegraphy by the Atlantic Cable. If Benjamin Franklin could come back to earth and see the great electrical machines at work, moving some of the best and most remunerative industries of the land and the many uses to which electricity is put, he would exclaim in his astonishment, 'I have been faithful over a few things: I ought to be made ruler over many.' The world was made better for his having lived in it.

"There is nothing of which a nation feels more justly proud than its material development in the march of civilization. It prides itself on the inventions of its people; its progress in the arts and sciences; the growth of its cities and the wealth of its broad acres and their influences for good. Is there any nation that has excelled, or even equaled, the United States in true progress, useful inventions and discoveries in the last fifty years? Truthfully can we all say, not one. Blot out of this country the inventions and discoveries of Fulton, Franklin, Morse, Field, Whitney, Edison (and may we say Marconi?) and the genius of many others, and our business, commercial, social, scientific and educational reputation and interests would be at a standstill. What is the lesson? Masonry has grown and prospered by

reason of these influences. It lives and becomes an important factor in civilization, in places of enlightenment, but always in the 'land of the free and the home of the brave.' True also it is that it lives in monarchical governments, but that life in a large degree is due to the liberty the people enjoy and not by reason of the monarchy. Our forefathers may have had some crude notions, but they were sturdy men, pioneers who knew no such word as fail, zealous to a fault, and who laid the foundation for the true Masonic edifice. They builded well, but with the hope of better things to come, and their memories should never be forgotten. Masonry is dedicated to the upbuilding of humanity, the relief of the distressed, the doing of the right, and all those moral agencies which have lifted man from the mire and placed him on a higher plane of manhood. Its teachings are useful and ennobling, its symbolism sublime. It has always had a due regard to that oft-repeated sentiment, 'The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.' Masonry is universal, and hence will never die.

"The cornerstones of nations, all
 Bearing exalted name,
 Are laid within our mighty craft,
 Their principles, the same.

"The churches of the nations,
 Whatever be their name,
 Cannot excel in all their good
 The glory of our fame.

"Our hands reach out o'er all the land
 To help a needy brother,
 While every orphaned child is thine,
 And every widowed mother.'

"Our Masonic institution is old and its origin still clouded in mystery. But of what consequence is this, when we see the laudable work it has done? It stands to-day as the bulwark of progress and moral and religious effort. Moreover, it stands like a solid rock against wrong and injustice. It has scourged the bigotry and intolerance of past ages. It stands without a parallel, the greatest, best and most consistent secret order of this or any other age.

"Much will be said by the speakers who are to follow which will be glad-some, new and interesting to us all. We shall all be benefited on this joyous occasion, ending as it were a period of our eventful history. This is the hour of good cheer, brotherly love and intellectual entertainment.

"Companions, in conclusion I again extend to you and our honored and noted guests that hearty welcome to this Semi-Centennial observance of an organized brotherhood which we all admire and for which we would yield up our lives rather than suffer one blot to mar its honorable title. Long live and shine the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of the great State of Illinois!"

When the applause which greeted the foregoing had subsided, and after a selection rendered in their best style by the Weber Quartette, Comp. Carlock said:



WILLIAM L. ORR.
III. Grand Steward.

"Companions: We have with us this evening some distinguished visitors from other Grand jurisdictions. From the State of Missouri we have Illustrious Companion William H. Mayo, the General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of the United States, and also Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of the State of Missouri.

"Inasmuch as he desires to attend a meeting of the Veterans' Association, now being held at the residence of Gen. John Corson Smith, I will call upon him to make some remarks now." (Applause.)

Companion Mayo: "Mr. Toastmaster and Companions: I would not dare to come in here at this time, almost like an intruder, and infringe upon your time by inflicting upon you a lengthy speech, even if I were competent to do so. You have your regular set programme, which I believe on such stated occasions as this should be followed out, and we on the outside should be left alone. But your Toastmaster has seen fit to call upon me to make a few remarks.

"I will give you but one thought that I desire to leave with you, especially at this time—your fiftieth anniversary. That is that the beautiful lessons taught in the Secret Vault are worthy of standing alone. (Applause.) They need not lean upon or depend upon any other order or organization, whether it be Masonic or otherwise. That is my doctrine, companions, and I want you to think about it. I have but very, very little toleration for the claim of some of our good companions, though misguided, that these beautiful degrees should be made prerequisite to the orders of Christian Knighthood. If you will but study the true history of these degrees, as some of us have done, and no man has done so more thoroughly than one of your own honored members and Past Grand Masters of your own Grand Council. I refer to Companion Warvelle. Especially does he know that there is no reason whatever, Masonically speaking, why the Royal and Select degree should depend upon the Orders of Knighthood. There is absolutely no connection whatever between them other than that they belong to the great American system of Freemasonry. That is where they belong. And the lessons they teach are so important and hinge together so beautifully with those degrees below them that without these the Chapter degrees would not be perfectly understood, as all of you are well aware; there is not one iota of connection between them and the so-called higher degrees or the Orders of Christian Knighthood—none whatever.

"Companions, I will say this in addition or in connection with this subject: We have nothing whatever to fear. Freemasonry is a grand old institution that has existed for hundreds of years, and I am speaking from the standpoint of a reading, thinking and studying Mason. I do not pretend to claim, my companions, that Freemasonry dates back to the building of Noah's Ark, or even to the building of King Solomon's Temple, by any means. But I do say that legitimate Freemasonry of to-day is old enough and strong enough in all of its branches to stand independent, separate and alone. (Applause.)

"I say that as Royal and Select Masters we have nothing to fear in the future. I am not an old man by any means. There are some in this gathering, I believe, that are at least equally as old as I am—even if my old friend

Warvelle did call me "Old Bill." However, this is what I was going to say: I am not a very old man, but I can remember very well in my official capacity as Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Missouri when we had but four or five Councils in Missouri and only about 150 or 175 members, and when our annual assemblies took place, as yours did to-day, it was the hardest work for us to drum up officers enough to open. That is the fact. Now, last April, when the Grand Council of Missouri met it was astonishing. Fourteen Councils in our State and about a thousand members. That is not very much, I will admit. But what an advancement in a quarter of a century.

"There are 35 Grand Councils in the United States and over 52,000 Royal and Select Masters. With that army of true and tried companions who believe in the beauty of these degrees and the importance of them, would you say or dare you think that their interest in them will lag in the least? I hold not. You companions in the great State of Illinois, which ranks seventh in membership in the United States, do you think that Royal and Select Masonry is going to lag in this State? No, sir, not one of you believe it! A quarter of a century, I said, that I can remember about. A quarter of a century is a very, very short time indeed when you are talking about the history of Freemasonry—a very short time. What will the next quarter of a century bring? Who dare foretell, prophesy or predict what it will bring forth? And as our good presiding officer said just now, what will the next half century bring when this Grand Council has lived to be one hundred years old? I, even as optimistic as I am, would not dare predict what it will be then. If we continue to progress as all other institutions and all other inventions and all other professions and occupations have increased and progressed as they have in the last quarter of a century, which most of us know, we dare not predict what the next half century will bring.

"It is only within the past few years that all of these Councils and Grand Councils have taken on new life. They are marching forward toward that goal that we are all looking for—improvement, advancement and the betterment of the human race.

"It was only last year that I organized a Grand Council in the great State of Iowa, bordering on your State and mine.. They have grown with rapid strides in the last two years.

"It is only within the last twelve months that I, on a visit across the continent, stopped in Colorado and in Utah, and revived the Order in Utah, where they had but one Council, which was dormant, and while spending a few days in Salt Lake City with my son I reorganized, as it were, and granted a dispensation to that Council to elect new men and younger men into office. They had twenty-five or thirty petitions for the degrees inside of three days.

"It is only within the past sixty days that I have opened up in Colorado great questions that have been agitating the minds of the Cryptic writers of the country, especially of my good friend Warvelle, and when he finds out what I have done there I am inclined to think that he will think a good deal better of me because I have done just what he wanted to do. Not because he wanted me to do it, but because it was *right*. That is why I did it (applause), and it will have its effect upon the Cryptic world.



WM. J. A. DELANCEY.
Ill. Grand Sentinel.

"Now, companions, I am talking entirely too long. You have your regular set programme, and I apologize to you for having occupied so much of your time, and thank you most kindly for the courtesy that you have shown me, not only on this but on all occasions when I have visited your city and State—and especially when I came to attend this annual convocation. They are great sources of pleasure to me. I enjoy them immensely, and although my hairs are somewhat silvered, I believe my physical condition is better than it ever was before in my life. I hope that I will live many more years to meet with you—possibly not in your next Semi-Centennial—but I am glad to have been with you at this one.

"I bid you Godspeed in this great and noble work of yours. I hope that you will march on with the teachings of Masonry as your guide, looking onward and upward all the time, and that Illinois will soon roll up many more thousand members of Royal and Select Masters and double up, not only her membership but her organized Councils in this State." (Applause.)

The Weber Quartette then responded with a selection and sang as only they can sing the inspiring ditty, "When the Stein is on the Table and the Heart is Free from Care," which seemed to meet with much favor on the part of the companions. At the conclusion of the song the exercises proceeded as follows:

The Toastmaster:

"Companions, I now call upon one of our Past Grand Officers who needs no introduction to a Masonic audience—that old wheel-horse of Cryptic Masonry in the State of Illinois, a man who is not only known throughout our Grand Jurisdiction, but is known universally throughout the jurisdiction of the United States; also known throughout the enlightened countries across the waters. The subject will be 'The Grand Council of Illinois,' by Most Illustrious Companion George W. Warvelle."

Companion Warvelle:

"Most Illustrious Toastmaster and Companions: If the stein was on the table and my heart was free from care, I have no doubt but what I could talk to you in a manner far more interesting and entertaining than will be the case without the aid those two very valuable adjuncts afford to the after-dinner speaker.

"Companions, we have met to-night to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Illinois, a circumstance that in itself is deeply significant in many ways. It is significant if only for the fact that we have lived for fifty years, for during that period how many organizations, social and political, have been born, have run their course and have died. It is doubly significant when we come to survey the history of Grand Council and see the trials it has endured, the vicissitudes to which it has been subjected, and the crises through which it has passed. In its origin it was inconspicuous and obscure; in its early years encompassed by many difficulties and impeded by many obstacles; in its more mature life abandoned by its leaders and its degrees turned over to another body; in its later years rescued from death and oblivion by the determined and earnest efforts of the men who have guided its destinies since the merger, until finally, at the end of half a century, we find

it stronger and more vigorous and more self-reliant than at any time during its career. Surely all this could not have happened were it not that Cryptic Masonry has within itself a vital principle that time cannot wither and an interest that age cannot stale.

"I have been intimately associated with every movement of this body for the last twenty years, or since we emerged from the merger. (Laughter.) I have seen it steadily grow in power, prestige and influence, and, predicating the future upon the past, I can with a prophetic vision see a still expanding sphere of usefulness with greater triumphs and augmenting glories. And because of my long and close association with the men who compose this body I have come to entertain for the body itself a more than ordinary interest. I regard it, to some extent, as a part of myself, because to it I have given many of the best hours of my life, and I look forward always with pleasurable anticipation to its annual assemblies.

"Brethren, there is a great deal that I might say upon this subject, notwithstanding the theme "The Grand Council of Illinois" in itself permits of no florid eloquence, no fervid oratory, no lofty flights of fancy. But we have with us to-night a number of distinguished companions from abroad who are our guests, in addition to the long list of speakers upon the toast card.

"Now, you have just had a sample of the entertainment that can be furnished by these companions from abroad. Those that remain are off the same piece, and they are fully equal in oratorical ability to the Illustrious Companion who has just addressed you. My voice has been heard and my views have been expressed to you so often that they have lost the charm of novelty. Listen to the strangers to-night and not to me.

"Let me only say in conclusion, a mere expression of my opinion, that the same agencies which have conspired to place the Grand Council of Illinois upon the eminence that it occupies to-day are still actively at work, and will exert themselves in the future. With Comp. Mayo, I, too, say: Have no fears; fifty years hence will find this Grand Council just as strong and just as influential as it is to-day and enjoying just as much prestige, wielding just as much power—a power for good—one of the great moral agencies of the time and of this community. (Applause.)

Again a selection was rendered by the Quartette, and then:

The Toastmaster:

"Companions, we will now listen to another well-known Cryptic Mason, known over the length and breadth of our own State, and also favorably known in other States of this country, and whom, I presume—I am only guessing at this—has attended more sessions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of the State of Illinois of Royal and Select Masters, than any Mason or Companion living in the State of Illinois to-day. I make this as a guess. I am not certain whether I am right or not, but I believe I am right. He can tell you as much about the subject that he is to speak upon and more than any other Mason in the State to-day. That subject is, "The Past Grand Masters of Illinois," the most Illustrious Companion, John M. Pearson. (Applause.)

Companion Pearson:

"Companion Toastmaster and Companions: Some few weeks ago I had



JOHN A. LADD.

Ill. Grand Prin. Con. Work 1884-5.

a very kind invitation to attend this banquet, and I wrote on a postal that I meant to come if the Lord would let me. In short, I didn't know just what sort of a predicament I was getting myself into. Shortly afterward came a notice acknowledging my acceptance, with a string tied to it, that I would be expected to respond to the sentiment of "The Past Grand Masters of Illinois." If I had known that before, Thrice Illustrious, I just guess I would not have been here to-night, because you could have had it done so much better. But I went to work and cudged my memory a little to see what I could remember of our Past Grand Masters. I don't pretend to say anything of those that are living and those that are here. You know them well. I thought of Past Grand Master Hibbard, First Grand Puissant, we will call him. We were almost boys together—young men together. We belonged to the same baseball club and played games. You would not think so to look at me now (laughter), but we played baseball when gentlemen played it. He came home and told me one day that he was elected Grand Puissant. I didn't know what that was. I was not a member of this Grand Council, but I was a member of our local Council No. 3, and I think there were four Councils in the State, if I recollect right. And we talked it over. He had to get up a design for an engraving to make the charter—fill up the charters—and we put our heads together and with the help of several Masonic charts we patched up something that looked like a charter, and when he made his address at the end of the year he was very kind to fall in with my ideas. I don't know how much of an address it was, but he got credit for it and I copied it off for him. While speaking of him, I never met his equal in the work of the Masonic degrees. Dramatic in all his actions and talk and movements—why, sir, if the multiplication table formed a part of our Ritual he would make it impressive. It was in him, and we deferred to his selection as Grand Puissant, and afterward as Grand Master of the State; and I remember a long list of Past Puissants—Father Lusk, Father Stevens and Michael J. Noyes—many of you remember those names, and so on along down. But in a few days in the course of mail I received a pamphlet of a hundred pages or so with some account of all these companions that have presided over the State of Illinois. I at once held up my memory and said, 'That is just what I want. I will take that pamphlet up to them and will read it to them—every word.' I thought it would take about an hour and a half—that long—and that we would have the whole night ahead of us (laughter), and I know that they will be very much interested and they will get more solid chunks of information out of it than they ever have had before. But unfortunately for me, and more unfortunately for you, I came away from home and forgot to bring it (laughter), so I cannot give it to you.

"But I want to say this, that while we are here to-night feasting and enjoying our prosperity and enjoying the good things that have been set before us, let us not forget, as you will have an opportunity to read this memorial that Companion Warvelle has prepared in regard to those old Past Masters. The names that I have mentioned, to which I might add Hawley and Miner and those men that worked in this Grand Council when it was a weak body and we had to do all we could to keep it alive, and, as Companion Mayo

said a few minutes ago, in his Grand Council of Missouri they had to skirmish around to get enough officers in the early days of the Council. But, as has been intimated, we have passed from that time. We have got a little strengthened. Then we went in partnership (laughter), and then we got the experience, and they got the capital. (Laughter.) But now we have got out and we have got on our own feet again and abler to stand than ever we were, and my earnest desire and prayer to God is that we will go on, and I expect to be with you the next Semi-Centennial." (Applause.)

The Toastmaster:

"Companions, we have with us other distinguished visitors, and I will take the opportunity now to call upon one who hails from Jackson, Mich., Byron C. Hill, the Most Illustrious Grand Master of that State, who no doubt will edify us upon the subject of "Cryptic Masonry" and other things that border along that line, and I take great pleasure in introducing him to you.

Companion Hill:

"Thrice Illustrious and Companions: I am a very modest man, and I don't wish to stand before you this evening and try to make you believe what I am not—a speech-maker. I never made a speech in my life, and being called upon to make a few remarks here this evening reminds me very much of an incident that occurred in your city some years ago. Those of you who are residents of this city undoubtedly have heard it, but it will express the point that I wish to make. It appears that an Irishman had become too full of the over-be-joyful, and he said, 'I can lick any man in the State of Illinois,' and there didn't any one seem to say that he could not. And finally he says, 'I can lick any man in Cook County.' No reply. He says, 'I can lick any man in this ward.' Not a word said. He says, 'I can lick any man in this room.' Just then a little bit of a fellow jumped up and gave him a cold swipe and sent him under the table. He got up and says, 'Begob, I think I took in a little too much territory.' (Laughter.) So I think that your Toastmaster took in a little bit too much territory when he called upon a man who never made a speech to try to entertain you.

"But, companions, I am very glad that I am present with you here this evening. I came to your city a stranger, not knowing a single face, but I have made, I trust, many acquaintances that will be lasting, and it brings to my mind that little bit of a couplet which runs something like this:

"The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,
Grapple them to your soul with hoops of steel;
But do not dull your palm with entertainment
Of each new hatched unfledged companion."

"My dear companions, as I said at first, I am glad that I am here. I have become acquainted with your way of doing work in the Grand Council, and I am glad to state that although there are some slight variations, yet at the same time it all means the same. I find the same brotherly love here in Illinois that we have over there in Michigan, and we have all got the name of having hearts as big as millstones. But our hearts and our minds go out to our sister jurisdictions, and I am glad that I have come to visit you, and I pray that I may have the strength and the spirit to come and visit you again.

"I have been received and entertained royally, but I feel that I am out of my class when I stand before you and try to entertain you. I will bid you good night." (Applause.)

The Toastmaster:

"We have with us another distinguished visitor whom I will take the pleasure of calling upon now to make a few remarks—Illustrious Companion R. B. Whitsett, Grand Principal Sojourner of the State of Indiana and also Grand Representative for the State of Illinois near the Grand Council of Indiana." (Applause.)

Companion Whitsett:

"Companion Toastmaster and Companions: I did not prepare anything to say to the Companions, but, Thrice Illustrious, I express my thanks to you to-day and desire to say that I am glad to have received an invitation to be here and glad that I am able to be here.

"There has been enough said on the subject of Freemasonry. There is one little thought that was running all through the beautiful expressions of the learned companions this evening, and with your permission I will speak of it and then I will close. They didn't call the institution of Freemasonry an order, any of them any of the time, I don't think. It is a fraternity, and it is not an order. Let us remember that. Why can't we remember that just as well as those who read? Some of them don't read very much, it seems. If it is not a fraternity, then describe a fraternity to me. I am not overdrawing the picture at all. It is a fraternity and an institution and a brotherhood and the great-grandmother of all brotherhoods. Now, is that too strong, or isn't it? I claim it is not too strong. It is a brotherhood. We don't solicit any one to come and join our brotherhood.

"The reason that we have a good deal of weakness in the Grand Council in this, and other jurisdictions as well, is simply because we are very careful about soliciting. We do not do it. I contend that we have a right to do a little soliciting in this body, Mr. Toastmaster—that I can say to my companion Royal Arch brother, 'You ought to join the Council. It will please you. It is worth the money. You will like it. You will enjoy it.' I say that I have the right to solicit him to join this institution, and I think that the Council is about the only body that needs a little bit of encouragement in this manner. The Grand Council of the State of Illinois ought to have about twice the number of members it has. When you get them, even by soliciting from the Chapter, you will find you will have a strong number of men. Get them first. Get a strong number of members and then do your selecting and rejecting of petitions. First get some strength in you; and then, I say, it is perfectly proper, for we are soliciting only within our own fraternity. It is the Chapter and the Lodge jointly. It is from that field that we get our numbers, and we have a right. It is perfectly proper, if I am honest about it, to solicit a companion Royal Arch Mason to take the Cryptic degrees. They are not expensive. The dues are merely nominal, and I want to say to him that the money he has spent on his Chapter degree is a robbery without the Council degrees, unless he has gone in simply as a stepping stone to reach the feathers, as many of them have done, and the Chapter gets the worst of it, because they are never present even to help make a quorum (Applause.)

"Another little thought right in that connection which has pervaded us all. We are quitting the idea of asking the Commandery to take us under its wing. We are quitting that. If it were not that the Chapter is supported by the Commandery, I want to tell you that the Chapter would see to it that we have just as much strength as it has. She would be saying to us, 'I wish that the Council would take our members and give them the Cryptic degrees.' We would all come in, and it would strengthen and open out the whole scheme of Freemasonry. But no. The Chapter acts on the strength of those who use it merely as a stepping stone to the Commandery, and it has strength enough. It is very strong. It is quite strong and influential, and I say that we can go right on now and get a little more strength in the Council by soliciting from our Royal Arch brothers and companions in the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons and get a little more strength here, and I think that there is no question but what we are bound to progress. We are bound to go ahead. We are bound to get stronger. Here are the Illustrious Masters of the whole State of Illinois. They are the select men of the community in which they live. Isn't that so? Are they not filling the positions that they have been elected to fill? We cannot strengthen our lines except from our own following. We haven't anything to grow from except from our own numbers." (Applause.)

The Toastmaster:

"Companions, I take pleasure now of calling upon one who is as familiarly known perhaps as any other Mason in the State of Illinois, and especially in the Cryptic world—one who has done, in my judgment, more for Cryptic Masonry than any other Cryptic Mason now living. I refer to one of our Past Grand Masters, who is present with us, and who will respond to the sentiment 'Cryptic Masonry'—Companion Nathaniel Bowditch." (Applause.)

Companion Bowditch:

"Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions of the Grand Council of Illinois: We have assembled on this joyful occasion to celebrate the Semi-Centennial of this prosperous Grand body.

"The fragrance of fraternal love and kindly feeling pervades this chamber and within its walls you have gathered to commemorate a most interesting epoch in our existence.

"Fifty years ago there assembled in the city of Springfield a few zealous companions, imbued with lofty impulses and animated by an exalted desire to advance the interests of the fraternity they loved so well; they called into being the first Grand body of Cryptic Masons ever assembled in Illinois.

Age has much to do with the reverence, respect and admiration bestowed upon any object, and after fifty years of deserved prosperity it is fitting that we should rejoice and make glad the hearts of those whose efforts have perpetuated and whose voices with joyful acclaim sing the praises of our craft.

"You are to be congratulated, not only upon the many years of your existence, but for the highly creditable record you have made.

"Cryptic Masonry never stood higher in the esteem of its advocates or in Masonic favor than it does to-day. It is as attractive for the venerable brother whose head is frosted with gray as for the zealous novice, to whom 'all seasons are as summer.'

"Half a century has passed since the first convention assembled which preceded the organization of this Grand Council.

"The faithful few, the zealous brethren, the fathers of this Grand body, have long since passed away from the earthly scenes of their struggles and triumphs. All save one.

"The patriarch and the oldest living Past Most Illustrious Grand Master alone survives, and I am both pleased and proud to note the fact that Companion Charles Fisher is with us on this festive occasion. (Applause.)

"It was my privilege two years ago in the Grand Chapter of Illinois to officially welcome him as the only surviving member of that band of zealous craftsmen who organized the Grand Chapter of Illinois. For twenty-five years he was Grand Treasurer of this Grand Council.

"In all of his Masonic life he has been a devoted, zealous advocate and friend of Cryptic Masonry, and has been untiring in his efforts to advance the interests of the Cryptic rite. May he be spared to attend many more of our Grand Assemblies.

"Cryptic Masonry is the summit and perfection of that ancient system of philosophy which, "veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols," appeals so strongly to the heart and imagination of the earnest, thoughtful, philosophic Mason.

"None of the glare and tinsel, the pomp and pageantry of the chivalric orders are presented to our neophytes.

"Those who would 'pass the circle' to be invested with our sublime mysteries, who in the Royal Master's degree realize the full fruition of the second section of the third degree, and who as erstwhile weary sojourners, then received substantial recognition of their labors, finds in the Select Master the culmination of all their hopes and desires and the crowning achievement of all that symbolic and capitular Masonry embraces.

"The Cryptic rite in Illinois is now in a prosperous condition, but it was not always so.

"The early pioneers were few in number, but were earnest and zealous in purpose, and notwithstanding many adverse conditions they finally surmounted every obstacle and laid broad and deep the foundations upon which rests our present prosperity.

"To Most Illustrious Companions James H. Hibbard, Levi Lusk, Charles Fisher, Sylvester Stevens and Charles W. Matheny—the early pioneers—and to John M. Pearson, Hiram W. Hubbard and many of their energetic and untiring successors who have occupied the Grand East, the thanks of this Grand Council are due. They gave birth and expression to all that is great and grand in the Cryptic Rite, as now practiced in Illinois. And aided by the earnest and tireless efforts of those zealous companions—the wheel-horses of the recent past as well as the present—to whom the grandeur, beauty and sublimity of these degrees so strongly appeal, have built up and will maintain with ever increasing numbers that development, prosperity and popularity which has so characterized our progress for many years.

"There is much that might be said on this subject, but time and circumstances will not permit of extended remarks.

For thirty-three years I have been an active worker in the Cryptic vine-

yard, and personally knew many of the fathers and active workers of the Cryptic as well as the Capitular branch of Masonry in Illinois.

"Most of them have passed into the higher life. They have left us in charge of a great trust, and let us see to it that in your hands it shall increase in dignity, character and importance, and in point of numbers many fold.

"The beautiful legend which characterizes the Royal Master's degree, and which when dramatically portrayed cannot fail to profoundly impress and intensely interest the appreciative neophyte, carries with it a charm which loses none of its attractiveness by frequent repetition.

"To the observant and appreciative companion there is thus unfolded a grander conception of the mysteries of the sublime degree of Master Mason than was ever before presented.

"The Select Master's degree is the summit and perfection of ancient craft Masonry.

"Those who 'have passed to the circle of perfection in ancient Masonry' and have 'wrought their regular hours' truly represent the finished work, the ripened product of the grandest system of philosophy ever unfolded to mankind.

"All that is great and grand in symbolic and capitular Masonry culminates and finds its highest expression in the degree of Royal and Select Master.

"It is fitting, therefore, that the unsatisfied Master Mason should seek higher fields and more lofty sources of inspiration, and that the more fervent and zealous Royal Arch Mason, already stimulated by the rich discoveries unfolded by his arduous labors, should press onward only to be rewarded by the complete unfoldment of all that mysterious knowledge and philosophy so strikingly manifested in the beautiful degrees of Cryptic Masonry." (Applause.)

The Toastmaster:

"Companions, you may have got the impression that Most Illustrious Grand Master Moulton would speak to you, but he retired early in the evening.

"I will now take pleasure in calling upon the most important personage with us this evening, the only survivor of the First Assembly of the Grand Council of the State of Illinois. I know that we will all be delighted to hear from him, and he will give us a paper that will be full of interest. I now take pleasure at this time of calling upon Companion Charles Fisher, the honored guest of this occasion." (Applause.)

Companion Fisher:

"Mr. Toastmaster and Companions: I am a good deal like some others here. I never made a speech in my life. I was not expecting to be called on. I didn't think I would have to make a speech here. I might think of a few things to say. But, as you say, I have prepared a paper. I have got a few items with regard to the history of this Grand Council, but as to making a speech, that is out of my line of business.

"Companions, it is a melancholy distinction I enjoy, of being the only survivor of that company of pioneer Masons who organized the Grand Chapter of this state, nor am I able to recall without sadness that but one companion remains besides myself of those who years ago instituted the Grand

Council, Royal Select Masters of Illinois, Companion Rolla W. Diller, of Springfield, Ill., but not a member of the Grand Council, being the only other survivor of that interesting and important occasion. There were but three Councils represented at this organization and only fifteen Royal and Select Masters present. But among them were some of the most prominent and influential names in Masonic history of this State. Pursuant to previous notice, delegates from Illinois, Springfield and Alton Council Royal and Select Masons met in Masonic Hall in Springfield, March 10, A. D., 1853. and organized by electing Companion William A. Dickey, of Springfield, President, and Companion H. G. Reynolds, Secretary. There were present as delegates from Illinois Council. H. G. Reynolds, proxy; from Springfield Council William A. Dickey, James H. Matheny and myself; from Alton, W. H. Turner and James H. Hibbard; as visitors, Companions William Lavelly, I. R. Diller, R. W. Diller, Thomas H. Campbell, William Sladden, John Uhler, P. A. Darwin, J. L. Bradford and A. R. Robinson were in attendance. As I have before said, all these have passed away but R. W. Diller and myself. Such names as Dickey, Turner, Matheny, Lavelly and others to be found upon this roll will long be remembered by all who are familiar with the Masonic history of Illinois. The meeting of March 10 was only preliminary to the permanent organization, which took place in the following September at Jacksonville. At this first regular conclave of the Grand Council, Companion James H. Hibbard was elected our first Grand Puissant, as the chief officer was then called. I passed the circle in Springfield Chapter of R. A. M. working under a charter from the General Grand Chapter of the United States, with authority to confer the degrees of Royal and Select Master. But upon the formation of the Grand Chapter of Illinois our charter was surrendered. Therefore a dispensation from the Grand Council of Kentucky was obtained, under which our local Council at Springfield worked until the Grand Council of Illinois was formed. One has only to glance at the long roster of Councils now at work under the jurisdiction of this Grand body and compare the little group of fifteen which witnessed the first assembly of Royal and Select Masters in Illinois, to inaugurate the movement to organize our Grand Council, with the numerous gathering here at this time of regular representatives to this Grand Council, to get some adequate idea of the great growth of our ancient order in the Empire State of the West. (Applause.)

"Companions, my life's work is drawing to a close, the weight of advancing years is pressing hard upon me, but it cannot lessen the appreciation and gratitude I shall always feel for the many acts of thoughtful kindness and fraternal consideration I have so many times received at your hands." (Applause.)

The Toastmaster:

"I now take pleasure in calling upon one of the younger of the Past Grand Masters of the State of Illinois. Without enlarging upon this Companion I will give you his name—Companion Frederick E. Hoberg, of Peru." (Applause.)

Companion Hoberg:

"Companion Toastmaster and Companions: My place near the end of this programme makes me think of a story told of Alexander. When Alexander

was a young man his father, Phillip of Macedon, was carrying on a war and winning battle after battle over his enemies, and when the news of these repeated victories was told to young Alexander he did not rejoice, but grieved over it, and exclaimed that his father would leave nothing for him to do. I feel as if the speakers who have preceded me have left nothing for me to do.

"The term 'Our Fraternities' to which I am to respond embraces all the symbolic lodges, all the capitular chapters and all the councils, and is co-extensive with Masonry itself. Masonry has been the subject of many speeches, but it is a subject not easily worn threadbare. It makes me think of the old story, which some of you may have heard, of the little street gamin Patsy. He had been to school and was very fond of his teacher, and I suppose the teacher was fond of little Patsy. And one day Patsy wished to show his friendship for his teacher, and purchased an orange for her. But before he gave the orange to the teacher he extracted most of the juice from it himself (by the usual process familiar to boys) and, as he gave the orange to the teacher, he remarked that it had been squeezed a good deal, but there was still some juice left in it. And so it is with the subject of Fraternity. It has been squeezed a good deal. It has been squeezed a good deal here to-night, but there is still something left in it, and when the last speaker has concluded there will still be something left unsaid.

"We have in this State alone 733 symbolic lodges, with a membership of about 64,000; 187 Royal Arch Chapters, with a membership of about 20,000, and 61 councils, with a membership of about 3,500, making in all nearly 88,000 Masons. A great army indeed. And if this army is true to the principles of 'Our Fraternity' its influence for good will be felt throughout the State.

"The past fifty years have been an era of great progress for our fraternities, and they are to-day almost without exception in a flourishing condition. The memberships are larger and constantly increasing. The meetings are held more regularly. The attendance is better. They meet in finer lodge rooms with finer paraphernalia, the 'work' is better done, and even our rituals have been elaborated and beautified and improved and brought to a state of almost perfection.

"This Grand Council, which was organized in 1853, as you have already been told, with but three Councils, and two of those Councils not yet having fully completed their organizations, and with only 99 companions, has to-day 61 active Councils upon its roll and about 3,500 members. And the gain in the symbolic and in the capitular bodies has been even greater. I often examine the records of my home lodge, and it is a pleasure to note the progress and the improvements indicated by the records themselves. I find that during the early period of the lodge's existence from time to time bills were presented for candles, and it seems as though there were more bills presented for candles than all other items of expense together, for that was the sole means of lighting the lodge rooms in those early days. And after a while candles gave way to kerosene oil, and for twenty years or more kerosene oil was used for lighting purposes. And then we find bills for gas, and finally for electric light. And so it has been with the other things about the lodge. And so it has been with the fraternities throughout the

State. And so it should be, for we are taught that Masonry is a progressive science, and our fraternity should keep up with the improvements that are going on all around us.

"The past fifty years have been remarkable in the number of discoveries and inventions. It has been an era of great improvement and progress in the industrial arts and sciences. Masonry, however, has kept its proper place in the march of human progress.

"But, my companions, it is not large numbers nor fine halls nor fine ceremonies nor jewels that constitute real Masonry—real fraternity. These are but the means to an end; but it is the practicing outside of the lodge room those things that we are taught in it, and in this respect our members to-day are not behind their brethren of fifty years ago, but remembering that they are members of a brotherhood, of a fraternity, and although not bound by the ties of blood, as the term fraternity literally implies, still they are bound together by the strong ties of union and friendship and in the reciprocal intercourse of kind and friendly acts to mutually promote the welfare and happiness of each other. Nor do they forget—nor should they ever forget—that they are also members of that other and greater fraternity, which embraces all the children of the Almighty Parent, the Great Brotherhood of Man, for our fraternities teach that our duties and obligations extend, not alone to the members of our craft, but embrace all mankind, and that our charities should be as large as the wants and weaknesses of mankind." (Applause.)

The Toastmaster:

"Companions, we always save the best until the last. That is the only way we can keep the crowd together. We will now listen to a discourse upon 'The Promise of the Future,' by our Grand Lecturer, M. M. Lord." (Applause.)

Companion Lord:

"Mr. Toastmaster and Companions: By casting your eyes over the subjects on which my predecessors on the floor have entertained you, you may possibly deduct this thought—that the subject matter contains something from which they may be able to deduce something more which will entertain you.

Our Grand Council, Past Masters, Cryptic Masonry, Our Fraternities. Those are things which actually exist, have their existence, and will continue to exist, and from that existence may be deducted and has been deducted entertaining remarks. But from the subject which they have inflicted upon me you can only deduce one thought—that is, that in their opinions they have absolutely failed to say that all good things come from the Lord. (Laughter.)

"Now, Cryptic Masonry—much has been said to you of the Grand Council and of Cryptic Masonry, and in trying to deduce something that may interest you from this subject, I will preface my remarks by an additional item of the history of this Grand Council that has personally come under my observation.

"The first time that I ever attended a Grand Council in the State—the first Grand Council that I ever attended—used to be in the attic of the American Express Building on Monroe Street, and it was the first time for

about twenty-five years that I had ever come into the city of Chicago, and I didn't know where it was, and I had been inquiring from everybody from the depot on down there, and in the afternoon I think we got together. I will say that that was the first meeting of the Grand Council I ever attended in my life. There were nineteen only present. The Grand Master at that time sat upon the left. It was a weak body then. In about 1889 that was. I can't remember the number of councils now that were supposed to be active at that time, but they were all more or less in a semi-dormant condition. There was at that time Bowditch, Warvelle and others. There was a query in their minds as to what was best to be done with Cryptic Masonry in this State; whether it might be more cryptic and what elaboration could be made, and I think in 1890 they first formulated a committee to revise the ritual then existing. That work had been finished. The grand and magnificent body of Royal and Select Masters which gathered together in the hall to-day and performed their usual duties is the outcome of the work that those illustrious companions at that time resolved to do. Or, in other words, it was what they promised to do, and from that promise, backed up by a continued zeal and persistent effort of each and every individual who was thoroughly interested in the development of the rite in this State. The result was shown in that magnificent body which gathered in the hall to-day.

"I recollect when I was something of a lad I was at work upon a hilly, rocky, barren farm in the northern part of Vermont. One day I told my father that a certain boy in the neighborhood had promised to give me a jack-knife, and he had made that promise a long time before, but I had never received the jack-knife and I was somewhat worried over it. He put his hand upon my head and said, 'My boy, don't take any stock in promises.' Now, I don't want you to take any stock in the promise that I am to entertain you, for I don't expect to.

"I was put on the tail end for the only purpose and with the only expectation that I should clear the hall and that you all go away disgusted with my efforts. (Applause.)

"Now, companions, we can't tell what there is in a promise. A promise from me to do or a promise from you to do a certain thing amounts to nothing. The Grand Council as it exists to-day has not been created and has not grown from the promises that were made, but it has been built up and enlarged and has reached the proportions to which it has now attained simply from what we have done and not from what we have promised to do.

"Now, here are but a few of us remaining, and we expect to go away to-night at the close of our fiftieth anniversary, and as suggested by our illustrious companion, Pearson, who has left the hall, that he expected to be with us at the next centennial, or next semi-centennial, I hope and pray that we all will be here. I expect to be here myself.

"I am not taking any stock in a promise. That is all I am expected to do—is to talk of promises. There has enough been said about the Cryptic Rite; there has enough been said about Cryptic Masonry; there has enough been said about the Past Grand Masters; there has enough been said about the Grand Council, and, as I have remarked before, there is no use of promising, but we must go out in the future, each and every one of us, clad with armor

and with an earnest desire beating within our breast, to build up and multiply and enlarge our numbers, and I hope that this sentiment will follow each and every heart of every Cryptic Mason here to-night, so that when we go out in the broad field of the grand old Jurisdiction of Illinois, and come up here one year from now, that every man can bring up and show to the Grand Council not only a promise but actual work which he has done." (Applause.)

After the singing of "Illinois" by the Weber Quartette, it being near the hour of 12 o'clock, midnight, the assembly was closed in peace and harmony and the companions dispersed.

TIDINGS

FROM THE ABSENT ONES.

The Committee on Invitation are in receipt of a large number of letters from distinguished craftsmen in all parts of the world, extending their congratulations on the attainment of our first half century of organized existence, and expressing their regrets for inability to be present with us and participate in the semi-centennial celebration. From the many replies received the committee have made a few typical selections, as indicative of the feeling which exists in other jurisdictions. It is to be regretted that the limitations of space preclude a publication in full of all of the letters now on file:

W. N. PENNELL, GRAND MASTER, WISCONSIN.

I wish, on behalf of the Grand Council of Wisconsin, to offer hearty congratulations to you and the Grand Council of Illinois on this auspicious occasion, and to express the hope that the Cryptic Rite will go upward and onward in your Grand Jurisdiction until it embraces every Royal Arch Mason in your State.

CHARLES E. MESERVEY, GRAND MASTER, MAINE.

While it would give me great pleasure to meet with you and the companions of your Grand Council, still I am obliged to decline the invitation so cordially and fraternally extended.

Wishing the Grand Council of Illinois continued prosperity and many repetitions of its fiftieth annual assembly.

WILLIAM H. BREWSTER, GRAND MASTER, VERMONT.

Please extend to the Companions present, for me, the fraternal greetings of the Grand Council of Vermont and the best of good wishes for their prosperity and success now and for all time.

JOHN S. ALFRED, GRAND MASTER, LOUISIANA.

Be pleased to convey to your M. I. Grand Master and the Ill. Companions of the Grand Council my fraternal greeting, with the sincere wish that their labors will be of great advantage to our Rite. May your "Annual Assembly" be pleasant, profitable and harmonious and upon its conclusion may each return to his own country with the satisfaction of having faithfully performed his duty to the craft.

H. W. HALL, GRAND MASTER, OREGON.

I congratulate you on the age of your Council, at once venerable and honorable, and think it well worthy of the consideration and esteem you accord to it.

JAMES H. PEABODY, GRAND MASTER, COLORADO.

You have my best good wishes and congratulations upon the present high standing of the Grand Council of Illinois.

ROBERT F. STEVENSON, GRAND MASTER, MISSOURI.

I did not enter the Secret Vault until late in my Masonic career and have been a penitent, because of the long neglect and my continued ignorance of the special beauty and instructive lessons of its ritual. I hope to complete the penance by hard and energetic effort, in the days yet allotted to me, in bringing light into the darkness of my less informed Companions as to Cryptic Masonry.

I regret my inability to be present in material form, but will be in spirit and encouragement of the good you may be able to accomplish.

A. B. ANDREWS, JR., GRAND MASTER, NORTH CAROLINA.

In behalf of the Grand Council of North Carolina, one of the original thirteen States of the Union of 1776, allow me to wish your Grand Council God-speed in their work, and prosperity in all their undertakings, as it is impossible for me to be present and give you this message in person, which enforced absence I sincerely regret.

With best wishes for the success of your Grand Council and our Order at large.

W. M. BLACK, GRAND MASTER, MARITIME PROVINCES.

I extend to you the fraternal greetings of this Supreme Grand Council and wish you a large and successful convention.

CHARLES A. GILLEN, GRAND MASTER, RHODE ISLAND.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Rhode Island sends greeting.

Your kind invitation from the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Illinois has been received by me. I wish to return the thanks of this Grand Body for your kind remembrance, and wish for you and your Grand Body a joyous occasion and continued prosperity.

BENJ. F. ST. CLAIR, GRAND MASTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

I congratulate your Grand Council upon its long life of fifty years, her golden anniversary. May she have many. I extend to you the best wishes of the Grand Council of New Hampshire.

WILLARD S. BRADT, GRAND MASTER, NEW YORK.

The Grand Council of the State of New York bids you God-speed. With best wishes for all.

M. S. RAFIELD, GRAND P. C. W., COLORADO.

I extend to you my best wishes and congratulations on having attained the age of half a century and trust that many more may be added to your brilliant career.

F. W. CRAIG, GRAND MASTER, IOWA.

I wish for you, the Grand Master and all present the greatest possible enjoyment on the auspicious evening.

THOS. MONTGOMERY, GRAND RECORDER, MINNESOTA.

May you have a good time, as I am sure all will who attend.

WILL H. WHYTE, GRAND SUPT. WORKS, MARITIME PROVINCES.

My best regards and kind wishes to all Cryptic Masons in Illinois.

ZIMMERMAN DAVIS, GRAND RECORDER, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Wishing you a brilliant and joyous occasion.

EDWARD MILLS, PAST GRAND MASTER, NEW JERSEY.

I trust nothing may intervene to mar the anticipated festivities and that all who may be present will enjoy all the good things the Chicago brethren so well know how to provide. My heart and good wishes will be with the Companions of the Cryptic Rite on the 29th.

WM. E. EVANS, GRAND RECORDER, OHIO.

Wishing you much pleasure in this meeting, and many more annual assemblies.

OSMOND H. BRIGGS, PAST GRAND MASTER, RHODE ISLAND.

Please convey to the Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions my kindest regards and best wishes for their health and happiness and the future prosperity of the Grand Council of Illinois, of which I am proud to be a representative in Rhode Island.

J. GILMAN WAITE, GRAND RECORDER, MASSACHUSETTS.

Though I could be with you only in spirit, yet I certainly congratulate you upon the reaching of so important a period in your Masonic history.

THOMAS E. SHEARS, PAST GRAND MASTER, COLORADO.

I regret very much that my business will make it impossible for me to be present and enjoy the benefits and influences of an Anniversary such as this, replete as it must necessarily be with mingled feelings of joy and sadness. My regret is intensified by the fact that I look upon the Grand Council of Illinois as my mother Grand Council, having been "greeted as one of the select" under her authority. The Grand Council of Illinois was then just entering her twenty-first year, and I my twenty-second year of life. Since then I have divided my affections with two other jurisdictions; and, in the opinion of some of the Old Guard of Illinois, have also followed after "strange Gods." But I still have, and will always retain, for the Grand Council of Illinois that

feeling of affection and love that the wanderer from home who takes the vow of allegiance to his adopted country, retains for his fatherland—his mother country.

May the Grand Council of Illinois ever maintain the high position she occupies in the cryptic world, not only as a live and vigorous body, but also as the defender and exponent of cryptic truth and justice. And may the "Old Guard" who placed her where she now stands be spared to her for many, many years.

With best wishes for a pleasant and profitable meeting.

GEN. J. C. SMITH, GRAND TREASURER, CHICAGO.

You will be surprised when I write you that I cannot be present at the banquet given in honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the forming of our Grand Council. The fact is that on the evening of same day, October 29, the annual reception of the Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois is to be given at my home, and I could not think of disappointing the Old Vets who come from so far, many from distant States, and even distant countries.

Kindly bear to the companions my sincere regret that I cannot be with them, with the assurance of my devotion to the principles of our institution.

CHARLES F. MATIER, GRAND RECORDER, ENGLAND.

I very greatly regret that distance and an overwhelming pressure of work will not permit me to accept the very kind invitation of the Grand Council of R. & S. M. of Illinois, for which I am deeply obliged.

JUN
1965

1965

